

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LXV.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

No. 6

CONTENTS.

Epitome.....	81
Leading Articles:—	
Political Phrases.....	82
Japanese Finance.....	82
"Re-Enter the Duke".....	83
The Pregnability of Hongkong.....	83
Mr. H. N. Mody, Philanthropist.....	83
Chinese Bank Orders.....	83
Hongkong Sanitary Board.....	84
A Munificent Gift.....	85
The Royal Visit.....	85
Hygiene Examination.....	89
Supreme Court.....	89
Disastrous Fire.....	92
The Insurance Conspiracy.....	92
British North Borneo.....	92
Queen's College Prize Distribution.....	93
Ellis Kadoorie Canton College.....	94
Another Dock Achievement.....	94
Wesleyan Church Bazaar.....	94
Companies:—	
Kowloon Land and Building Co., Ltd.....	95
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited.....	95
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.....	95
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.....	96
Canton.....	97
Kulangsu (Amoy) Municipal Council.....	97
Commercial.....	98
Shipping.....	100

BIRTHS.

On January 28th, at Tientsin, the wife of G. D. B. BIDWELL, of a daughter.

On January 31st, at Shanghai, the wife of O. THORESEN, of a son.

On February 3rd, at 1 a.m., the wife of T. KIRKMAN DEALY, Craigmint East, Magazine Gap, of a daughter—Margaret Mary.

MARRIAGE.

On February 2nd, at Shanghai, CHARLES WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM, R.C. "Ping Ching," to ELIZABETH CECILIA SANGSTER.

DEATHS.

On January 28th, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, WILLIAM ELLIS DUNN, late of the American Trading Company, aged 73 years.

On January 31st, in Cheshire (Eng.), the wife of W. J. B. CARTER, of Shanghai.

On February 3rd, at Shanghai, DAVID FRANCIS PEARSE.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD (N).
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English mail of January 11th arrived per the s.s. *Delhi*, on Wednesday, the 6th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Mr. Vootysch has been appointed Consul for Germany at Hongkong in succession to Dr. F. Krüger, and His Majesty's exequatur has been issued.

A case of Cantonese crackers exploded while under examination at the Customs House on February 6th. Three Chinese assistants were injured, one seriously.

The *Gazette* notifies that Messrs. R. O. Hutchison and W. Trotman, cadets, and T. H. King, police probationer, passed their final examination in Cantonese on January 18th.

F. M. Goode, the absconder arrested in America on charges of extensive frauds in Shanghai, has pleaded guilty and been sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

The A.D.C. have decided to postpone the production of "The Country Girl" this season owing to the early arrival of the Bandmann Co., which event will be followed by the Easter holidays.

Receipts into the Treasury between January 1st and November 30th, 1906, amounted to \$33,442,193.26, the payments out for the same period being \$30,458,854.43, leaving a balance of receipts over payments of \$2,983,338.83.

The occasional dead bodies which are being recovered from the harbour serve to remind us that the death roll of the recent squall is not yet complete. On Feb. 6th five corpses were recovered, five on the previous day, and four on Monday.

H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint Lieut. A. B. Ogle, Royal Engineers, to be his extra aide-de-camp with the local rank of captain from the 24th instant, vice Lieut. H. W. T. Smith, H.K.S.B.R.G.A., resigned on leaving the Colony.

The members of the local branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank acquitted themselves in their usual admirable style on Saturday night when there was another enjoyable dance under their auspices.

The Colonial Treasurer has prepared a statement of the Colony's assets and liabilities upon the 30th November 1906, and as this appears in the *Government Gazette* it shows the total assets for that period to be \$1,937,875.06, while the liabilities amount to \$1,302,839.97, leaving a credit balance of \$635,035.09.

Eleven Chinese appeared before Mr. C. D. Melbourne at the Police Court on Feb. 7th to answer charges of being rogues and vagabonds. It appears that the owner of certain houses in Possession Street which were to let, found the defendants in occupation and informed Inspector Ritchie who caused them to be arrested. The rent collector of the owner gave evidence that the defendants had applied to him to enter one of the vacant houses and he had granted permission. After hearing this evidence his Worship discharged the defendants.

Mr. C. Lejeune, the Acting French Consul, summoned a chair coolie before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Feb. 1st for demanding more than his legal fare, and behaving in a disorderly manner. Mr. Lejeune engaged the chair at the King Edward Hotel and proceeded to Government House, returning to the Hotel in about twenty-five minutes. He gave the coolie a fifty-cent piece and waited for the change. Defendant only gave him 10 cents back and afterwards pretended that he had only received 20 cents. He became disorderly and attracted a large crowd. His Worship imposed a fine of \$2 on each charge.

His Majesty the King has not been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 15 of 1906, entitled—An Ordinance to amend The Prepared Opium Ordinance, 1891.

At a meeting of the Gymkhana Club held at Messrs Gibb, Livingston and Co.'s on Feb. 1st it was arranged to hold five gymkhanas during the coming season, the first of which will take place early in April. A challenge Cup will also be run on the same conditions as last year. Mr. C. G. Mackie resigned the secretaryship as he was shortly leaving for a trip home, and Mr. R. F. C. Master was appointed secretary and treasurer. The following members of committee were also elected:—Colonel Aitkin, Major Parker, Messrs. C. H. Ross, H. P. White, G. K. Hall Brutton and D. Macdonald.

It is reported from Peking that it is proposed to organize the following Departments within the yamen of the Viceroy or Governor of each province. In the first place the Viceroy or Governor is allowed to have only one secretary—a Confidential Secretary—and the Viceregal or Gubernatorial yamen will contain the following Departments with a Commissioner or Director over each:—(1) Department of Foreign Affairs, (2) Civil Officials' Department, (3) Department of the Commonalty, (4) Department of Famille, (5) Department of Ceremonies and Education, (6) Military Department, (7) Department of Agriculture, Works and Commerce, (8) Department of Posts and Communications. A Viceroy or Governor whose jurisdiction touches the frontiers of the Mongol or Tibetan dependencies will have a ninth Department, namely, the Department of Outer Dependencies. The economy of the yamen of the Provincial Treasurer, Provincial Judge and Literary Chancellor will continue as usual, with the addition that each shall contain a special department where meetings may be held to confer on Governmental matters, i. e., the proposed forerunner of a City legislature. It is stated that an Imperial decree approving of the above departments will be issued shortly.—*N. C. Daily News*.

MINERS' RIOT IN JAPAN.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Tokyo, February 7th, said: A riotous outbreak of the miners employed in the Ashio Copper Mine, near Nikko, continued for several days. The interior of the mine was wrecked by the rioters, who also destroyed the surface buildings. The office of the directors was attacked by eight hundred men, and the directors tried to save their lives by concealing themselves in a cavity under the floor. They were discovered, dragged outside and clubbed to death.

The populace of the neighbourhood is terror stricken, and the police are helpless. Troops have been summoned to the scene.

The disturbances are attributed to socialist propaganda, following some annoyance at alleged official partiality.

POLITICAL PHRASES.

(Daily Press, 4th February.)

Referring to the notes on the "Blue Water School" by Admiral Sir CYPRIAN BRIDGE, which we have reproduced elsewhere in this issue, the *Times* remarks that "nothing obscures argument or controversy like a nickname, a fact of which politicians and persecutors in behalf of religions are very well aware." Our contemporary did not elaborate this important point, as it seemed more desirous of recapitulating and emphasising the points already sufficiently well made by Sir CYPRIAN BRIDGE. It seems to us a point worth dwelling on, however, by all who are or expect to be engaged in any kind of controversy, for we doubt if "politicians and persecutors in behalf of religions" are so well aware of it as the *Times* supposes them to be. The controversialist would seem to be well aware of it, because he invariably adopts the tactics, and scores by fitting his opponent with some nickname that has an *ad captandum* effect and detracts from the seriousness of the opposing argument. But it is impartial observers who are well aware of this: the disinterested thinker only who should be said to be fully cognisant of the illogical and obscurantist aspect of a trick that nearly all keen debaters use, as it were, by instinct. The success of it depends upon another mental frailty, the careless habit of permitting misused terms to have their false values enshrouded, so to speak, or stereotyped. The word 'machievellian' offers a fair illustration. A politician without being absolutely dishonest may attach this adjective to his rival's policy; his auditors from it derive only a perception of unprincipled cunning; the nickname sticks; the real issue is obscured. The word 'cowardly' is another sample. The *Times* says England should go to war only when not to fight would be cowardly; but there are times when much moral courage is needed to show what the world calls cowardice. A critic acts on the principle that humour, of sarcasm or irony, is a powerful weapon; the person criticised has only to retort 'buffoon' or 'frivolity'; and for the majority the humour is at once discounted. Adages and aphorisms are the very mischief as samples of what we may call this *ad captandum* currency of argument. Thus a local missionary, first wildly assuming that newspapermen are absolute strangers to religion or religious questions, publicly pronounces the plausible opinion that only those who thoroughly understand Christianity from the inside are competent to discuss the missionary question. He may have been misreported, so we need not divulge the reverend gentleman's name. Had we not just referred to the dubious value even of popularly accepted aphorisms, we might have replied that lookers-on see most of the game, an idea which occurred independently to both China and Europe, and has long been crystallised in the speech of both ends of the world. But even with its truth admitted, the issue would not be properly clarified. The point is that the preacher's assumptive premiss was patently unwarranted; that in any event it is not the arguer but the argument which counts, though too often the public scans the mouthpiece and does no more than glance at the message. This exposes them to the risk of swallowing as truth what may be merely a good, honest, earnest man's error; and of ignoring the true wisdom that sometimes at least has been known to issue from "babes and sucklings." There are irreligious men—not necessarily immoral, by the way—whose attitude toward life is one of

deadly earnest, and there are missionaries and preachers whose real attitude, under the professional pose, is one of cynicism. But all the schools of logic in the world won't cure the illogical tendencies of human nature. Sermons on argument are doubtless like sermons on morals, soon spilt on any ground; it will not be amiss, however, if the casual remark of the *Times*, thus extended by us, puts some few readers on their guard against being led away by shibboleths, and nicknames, and adages. The habit of critical analysis is one that, while it robs us of much of the joy of partisanship and combat, saves us from "many a blunder and foolish notion." These "nicknames," as the *Times* has dubbed them, have been tellously numerous, and they have of late years done more than obscure issues; they have done the work of the Gadarene devils, and sent herds of silly swine galloping headlong into a sea of trouble.

JAPANESE FINANCE.

(Daily Press, 5th February.)

At the close of the past year Japan found herself with a debt amounting in round figures to, as near as possible, 200 millions sterling. This, it is true, amounted to but five pounds sterling a head of her population, a clever and highly industrious one. Naturally Japan is not a preeminently rich country; the greater portion of its surface is occupied by mountainous country, and its mineral wealth, though considerable, is hardly above the average. Her statesmen if well advised would have set themselves, with the same energy as they displayed during the war, to take measures to relieving her people of the heavy burden of their indebtedness; her position amongst the nations was assured, and the only nation whose aggression she had in any measure to apprehend was financially in a worse position than herself; and besides had so many serious troubles at home, that her beginning again a policy of annexation was plainly for the moment at least out of the realm of practical politics. In addition to this the section of the Russian people and government who favoured wholesale aggression had been considerably reduced both in numbers and influence, so that Japan might fairly look forward to a few years, at least, of unchallenged peace at home. But the spirit of chauvinism which has been lessening in Russia, has unfortunately been growing in Japan. She has made up her mind to increase her army by fifty per cent, in the face of her experience during the war that with her admirable system of organization and her skilled staff, she was able to place even new levies in the field superior in every respect to those that the enemy could bring against her. The natural lesson to be learned from this was that as long as she kept her organization complete, and had sufficient men under arms to keep up the nucleus of a powerful army, she had in the present position of affairs, when retrenchment was absolutely necessary, absolutely no cause for apprehension. But Japan has not been confining her aggressive methods to her army, nor even her navy. A navy is not to be made in a day, nor a year, but is a task needing long and steady preparation beforehand. Economically Japan's need of a strong navy is as clear as the uselessness from the same point of view of her keeping under arms a powerful army; so it is noteworthy that none of her critics, at home or abroad, has in any way called in question her wisdom in this

respect. But she has been pursuing a similar aggressive policy with regard to her commercial relations all round, and not the least part of her momentary financial difficulties are attributable to this cause. Other countries that have attempted a system of bounties and subsidies all round have found in the end, even when they entered on the project unhampered by debt, that the game was not worth the candle; and most have given it up altogether or reduced its incidence. The Japanese Ministry proposes to raise a sum for the exigencies of the year of no less than sixty one millions sterling. This when we come to examine it is no less than thirty shillings a head on every man, woman and child in the Empire. It is true again that Great Britain with a population about equal to Japan has a taxation of more than twice as great individually, but the individual population of Great Britain is a good many times richer than that of Japan, and moreover not only is the debt of Great Britain entirely an internal one, but an appreciable part of the taxation is applied to the reduction of the debt. But a very small part of Japan's debt is internal, and there is absolutely no appropriation for repayment. Still the population of Great Britain feels unpleasantly the incidence of taxation; so it is but natural that that of Japan's could stagger under hers. But, as the Japanese press points out from one end of the Empire to the other, although by using up funds provided for other purposes, the Government may possibly be just able to scramble through the present year, there is nothing in sight to supply the necessary vacancy next. The Government takes credit to itself for possibly finding in its coffers after squaring up the accounts of the war a sum (estimated) of some 100 million yen; it likewise includes under the term of revenue a sum of some 14 million yen, to be derived from the sale of Government property. It does not specify of what the Government property consists, but apparently the sale of surplus stores after the war forms one of the more important. Now it is clear that such a resource cannot be looked upon fairly as real revenue, yet it is on such a slender reed that a budget of permanent expenditure is sought to be balanced. It is to the credit of the native press that it has clearly seen the falsehood of the position taken up, and has had the hardihood to expose its inherent weakness. But a still more important defect remains to be noticed. A large portion, some three millions sterling, of the revenue accrues from Customs duties. In the last budget he had on "protectionist" principles been raised to such an extent as seriously to hamper the trade of the Empire; in the new budget it is seriously intended to raise it still higher, and an additional revenue of £430,000 is estimated to be obtained by increasing these protective duties still more, in order, as the Government would fondly propound, to bring in an increased revenue. This is, however, as a moment's consideration will show, a contradiction in terms. Avowedly the enhanced rate is to shut out all foreign competition, and as far as this would be effective to seriously diminish the volume of foreign trade, and the first effect of such a system would be, as a tyro in political economy could see at a glance, to lessen instead of increasing the collection. But the evil could not end even here. A necessary effect of the enforced diminution of foreign trade it is easy to see would be to diminish the productive capacity of the country at large. This has already been seriously hampered by the

enormous growth of Government monopolies, which may be seen to diminish the private resources of the individual trader; and therefore react on the individual capacity for taxation, as well as injure the resourcefulness of the mercantile body.

"RE-ENTER THE DUKE."

(Daily Press, February 6th.)

Carpe diem. Hongkong has before enjoyed similar honour to that it has to-day, but such pleasing occasions are not, and cannot be reasonably expected to be, frequent in such an outlying outpost of Emperor EDWARD VII's dominions. The recent visit in passing of the son of to-day's royal guest was a pleasant break in the monotony, as some see it, of life here, a purple spot on the drab panorama of our dollar-cursing existences; but the second advent of Prince ARTHUR's father, the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, is naturally regarded with far greater interest. The fervour of loyalty that was shown, according to our files, seventeen years ago, has not diminished with the passage of time, although so many changes of public policy and social outlook have occurred in the meantime. The loyal residents of this "no mean city" are prepared to-day, as ample evidence has shown, to extend to the brother of King EDWARD the cordial and respectful welcome that they gave in 1890 to the son of Queen VICTORIA. Socialists may scream in England, suffragettes squawk, and labour members bellow—in other parts of the world Royalty may appear to mean less and less to a democratic generation—but at Hongkong neither the Past nor the Present of the British Dynasty has as yet been suffered to lapse from memory, and the tradition of personal loyalty of the most genuine sort is a living and breathing force in our midst. As official representatives of the monarch, our Governors have from time to time been frequently convinced of this; the appearance of a representative allied by blood merely serves to evoke more pronounced manifestations of a feeling always existent. It is decidedly fortuitous that H.R.H. the DUKE, who in 1890 laid the foundation of the West Point to Murray Road Reclamation, should happen to return in the one year when that great work may be said to have visibly approached its culmination. The completion of so many handsome buildings, the sight of which should peculiarly impress the DUKE, if he have retained any recollection of the earlier scene, and the adornment of the neighbourhood with such very appropriate statuary, could not well have fitted into any earlier or later return to the scene of his former good offices. It will have been noted, moreover, that the procession of decades is maintained, 1887 the jubilee, 1897 the Diamond Jubilee, 1907 the Ducal visit and functions. As we have suggested, a vast amount of water has run under bridges since H.R.H. last heard the plaudits and huzzas of Hongkong. Much more will have flowed by the next year with a seven in it comes round, and since the next best thing to a hearty welcome is to speed the parting guest with "come again," we may anticipate a little and here express the hope that in 1917 H.R.H. the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT may be permitted to return and see a still bigger and better Hongkong, and a Hongkong as loyal to his House. To-day's addresses will remind him of the progress made locally since he was here last; doubtless His Excellency the GOVERNOR will indicate to him some of the further changes probable, when Hongkong is connected with a busy railway system.

THE PRAGMATISM OF HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 7th February.)

Coincidentally with the Inspecting Field-Marshal, there arrived yesterday with other mail matter a copy of the *Naval and Military Record*, containing a timely and appropriate article on Great Britain's strategical position in the Far East, with particular reference to the safety, under certain conditions, of Hongkong. The writer, who adopts "Halero" as his pen-name, deals chiefly with the naval situation, but his opinion of the military defences of Hongkong may be gathered from his opinion that, in the absence of a battle-quadron, any attack "would be immediately followed by the surrender of Hongkong, Weihaiwei, and probably Fiji and other possessions in the Pacific." We have referred to this article as timely and appropriate, but that is not to imply approval of its tenor and purport. It assumes too many things, and it is evidently the work of a prophet whose rashness has never had the advantage of being toned down by previous failures. But for one thing, it would be somewhat alarming, and cause us to hope that the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT as Inspecting Officer will look well beneath the surface of things here, to read that "Hongkong, though valuable as a base against any other nation in the world, is at present in an utterly inadequate state to hold out for even a short period after the naval abandonment of the China Seas, as the few cruisers we have at present in those waters would have to give way to the smallest fleet of battleships." The one thing that reduces the stock of this disclosure of a state of affairs which the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT has presumably come to find out is that the writer does not seem to know more about the subject than any other man in the street. He is a pseudo-Blue-Water scholar, and apparently under the impression that Hongkong's sole means of defence are "the few cruisers we have at present." But apart from that issue—on which the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT will more expertly advise the Government—"Halero" is a miserable croaker, infected with the Yellow Peril fever. The disease in his case is virulent because he seems to think he is the discoverer of it. Unlike JEROME's narrator in "Three men in a boat", there is nothing the matter with him but "housemaid's knee". Japan is the Power to whom Hongkong, like another Port Arthur, is to be surrendered in the visible future. "History has a marvellous fashion of repeating itself, and if there are any lessons to be acquired by a study of the past applied to the present position of affairs in the East it is this—that one of the great nations will have soon to fight Japan, or Japan and China, for the right to trade and hold what she has got in the East." Criticism of the armchair sort also has a marvellous fashion of repeating itself, and we have heard something like that before. What of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance? This "Halero" disposes of it in his peroration, which it were pity not to quote. "The treaty of to-day may be the waste paper of to-morrow, and he who looks to others to guard what his forefathers fought for and won will some day lament and wail over his lost possessions." Pestiferous moonshine, pretentious product of an adulated idea which a child in these matters would discard as soon as thought of. Treaties are not turned into wastepaper in a day, or without warning, and if we accept "Halero's" definition of strategy as "having the right forces in the

right spot at the right time", there is obviously no need to accept his remedy, viz: to "immediately" replace the three Eastern cruiser squadrons by one fleet of "capital" ships, cruisers, and torpedo-boat destroyers.

MR. H. N. MODY, PHILANTHROPIST.

(Daily Press, 7th February.)

When, a few days ago, we enumerated the Royal Statues to be erected on that portion of the Reclamation which is intended to be preserved as a garden or open space, we named five—those of Her late Majesty Queen VICTORIA, His Majesty King EDWARD, Her Majesty Queen ALEXANDRA, His Royal Highness the PRINCE OF WALES and His Royal Highness the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT. The Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER, C.M.G., made the interesting announcement yesterday that with the royal permission another statue would be added to the group by his friend and partner, Mr. H. N. MODY, this statue to represent Her Royal Highness the PRINCESS OF WALES. When the announcement was made five years ago that Sir PAUL CHATER, who made a gift to the Colony of the statue of H.R.H. the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, had generously further offered to present a statue of H.M. the KING, while Mr. J. J. BELL-IRVING had offered a statue of H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES, the Officer Administering the Government gave apt expression to the community's appreciation of the public spirit and liberality of the donors. Had the arrangements for yesterday's unveiling ceremony admitted of a speech by His Excellency the Governor, Sir MATTHEW would no doubt have given similar expression to the public appreciation of Mr. MODY's generous gift. In a quiet and unostentatious manner, Mr. MODY for the past thirty years has identified himself in a very practical way with the progress and development of the Colony, and as regards the benevolent side of his nature brought into especial prominence by the gift just announced of \$10,000 to the funds of that most useful institution, the Ladies' Benevolent Society, the organisers of public and private charities are better aware than the public newspapers of the amount of good it has been Mr. MODY's custom to do by stealth. The gift of a statue to the Colony however is a donation which cannot very well be anonymously made, and coming as it does from the leading representative in the Colony of His Majesty's Indian Empire, and moreover one of the oldest residents of Hongkong, the gift will be highly appreciated by the community as no doubt it will be by the Royal Family and especially the gracious lady to whose honour the statue will be erected.

CHINESE BANK ORDERS.

(Daily Press, 8th February.)

That what is known in trade as a Chinese Bank Order should be above suspicion is plainly one of the necessary foundations of trade as carried on in North China, at least. This doctrine has been always hitherto acknowledged, and that such should be the case is evident from a consideration of the conditions of the trade; the Bank order differs in many important particulars from a cheque, inasmuch as it is a distinct order issued by the Bank, and is like a bank note payable to bearer, and does not require any endorsement by the party giving it, the whole responsibility for its payment being assumed by the bank. On this ground it has always been held to have closed the transaction in respect of which it

was paid, any subsequent proceedings being merely on account of the document itself, not on account of any previous transaction. Before issuing the order the bank has to assure itself, in case it have not received its equivalent in cash, as to the solvency of the party to whom it has issued it in the first instance; and once it has issued it, it cannot plead that it has no asset. The solvency of the bank issuing the order is, in fact, the only consideration affecting the recipient. Of course if the order have been stolen or otherwise come into improper hands, the bank may, as in the case of a stolen note, temporarily refuse to pay the amount to the presenter, but it cannot on any such plea acquit itself of its liability for payment, which is inherent in the document itself, and cannot be traversed; and in any case it assumes all the responsibility quite independent of the original grantee, whose absolute property it became on issue.

Such is the claim of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce in respect to certain Bank Orders for which payment was refused on the plea that the recipients had not fulfilled the conditions on which the holders of the order had passed it over. It appears that certain bank orders were given in payment of cargo purchased of a firm in Shanghai, which were passed into a foreign bank in the ordinary course of business. These orders on becoming due were presented for payment to the issuing bank, but payment was refused on the plea that the delivery order for the goods had not, when applied for subsequently to the acceptance of the order, been given; and that in consequence there was no indebtedness. The Chinese banks on the other hand have through the TAOTAI been seeking to establish a hitherto unheard of claim, that it is open to the giver of a bank order to a foreign firm, should he have, or fancy he have, a dispute concerning the matter for which he has handed over the bank order, to notify the bank to refuse payment on maturity, and hand over the money to the Bankers' Guild pending a settlement of the dispute satisfactory to himself.

It is not alleged in the cases complained of that any loss resulted to the giver of the order, the goods bargained for having been delivered in accordance with the agreement; but it can be readily seen that any attempt to discredit an unconditional document would have a very detrimental effect on the commerce of the port, and would go far to destroy the confidence hitherto existing between native and foreign merchants, and would certainly be detrimental to the interests of both. In the first instance the granting of post-dated orders has proved of enormous advantage to the native merchant, as it affords him in his dealing with his own bank the necessary time to pass on the purchased cargo in whole or part, or to make his own arrangements as to continuing his credit. The only alternative to this course would be to require payment in cash and this would be in the majority of cases practically impossible. Had any advantage been taken of the present system to commit frauds on Chinese purchasers, there might have been room for asking for a reconsideration of a rule which practice had shown to be conducive of fraud, but no such is alleged. The present system has, it is acknowledged, worked to the mutual benefit of all; and has been proved of advantage to the trade generally, so that prima facie no palpable reason can be alleged for desiring to alter it.

On the other hand if it were permissible to reopen every case for discussion when the bank-order attained maturity, an enormous opening would be afforded for

fraud on the part of the Chinese purchaser, and a bank-order would be practically of no more value than an ordinary post-dated cheque. As in the course of trade both sides are practically dependent on their banks for clearing these transactions, no sale could be effected till the actual cash had been handed over, a condition which would bring back the unsatisfactory relations existing in primitive ages before the general introduction of banks. In any case the Chinese purchaser has the remedy in his own hands, by seeing that he has the procumers before handing over the order. Other complaints made by the Chinese as to bank holidays, &c., are easily adjustable. When used in the course of a quarrel they may serve to add fuel to the present growing spirit of discontent, but as Mr. SKOTTOWE points out, the inconveniences are not altogether on the side of the Chinese; a little latitude has by old custom been permitted to grow up, to the mutual satisfaction of both sides. There has up to the present been a little yielding on both sides, but if the Chinese banks desire to introduce hard and fast rules with regard to holidays and hours of business, they must be prepared to reciprocate. Altogether the new attempt on behalf of the native banks to upset previous arrangements is only on a par with the general unfriendly disposition which is being fanned by the reactionary party from one end of the Empire to the other. It is founded on no real grievance, nor has it the excuse of being in any way brought about by any unfriendly spirit in the past of foreign governments, or foreign residents.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on February 5th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Dr. F. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Lieut. Col. J. M. Reid, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Registrar General, Dr. H. McFarlane, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Mr. Humphreys, Mr. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Lau Chun-pak and Mr. G. A. Woolcock (secretary).

THE OPEN SPACE QUESTION.

Mr. HUMPHREYS, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions:

(1) Has the Medical Officer of Health ever recommended any Chinese houses for total exemption from the provisions contained in subsection (1) of section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance of 1903? If so why did he make such recommendation when (as he now states) he does not regard any domestic building as perfectly sanitary which is not provided with an open space exclusively belonging to such building?

(2) Has the Board (with the consent of the Governor in Council) ever granted Chinese houses total exemption under section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance of 1903, upon the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health?

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH replied:

(1) Dr. Clark has recommended one house for total exemption from the provisions contained in subsection (1) of section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance of 1903. This house is a small triangular building of two storeys, at the corner of Yee Wo street, numbered 63, and can only legally accommodate two persons on each storey. The reason given was that the house was so small, and Dr. Clark pointed out to the Board at the time that the best way to deal with the property would be for the owner to let No. 61 (which has a backyard) and No. 63 jointly as one dwelling, but that the Board had no power to enforce this suggestion.

(2) The Board has granted total exemption under section 175 to 17 Chinese houses on the recommendation of Dr. Barnett; to 17 Chinese houses on the recommendation of Dr. Pearce; and to 79 Chinese houses on the recommendation of Dr. Macfarlane.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—There is one question I would like to put. Was that one house exempted before Dr. Clark left for England or after he returned?

Dr. CLARK—Quite recently.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—When he was M.O.H., before he went home, did he not recommend some for total exemption?

Dr. CLARK—Not under this Ordinance.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—But under a previous Ordinance with the same enactment?

The PRESIDENT—He did. I can look it up.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—It doesn't matter.

"CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY."

An interesting discussion originated from the correspondence relative to proposed houses in Gough Street and Hollywood Road with cross section.

The PRESIDENT moved the adoption of the recommended plan.

The Hon. DIRECTOR of Public Works, in seconding, said he could not say that any real sanitary improvement would be effected by the limitation of the height of the houses as mentioned. All the adjacent houses in the same street were of the same height or higher.

Mr. HOOPER moved, with regard to Gough Street, that the plan be not sanctioned. He added that cubicles were allowed in existing houses but not in new houses, and asked what advantage the Government would gain by putting up that site for public auction. Naturally a man would give a higher premium for land where he could build three storeys instead of two. It would be a very immoral proceeding if the Government took up that line. It was because they had done that that Hongkong was as insanitary as it was. They had sold land for building and those sites had been surrounded by narrow streets. Owners had bought them knowing they would be allowed to put up houses of a certain kind. Then came the Ordinance of 1903 and their rights had been taken away. This practically amounted to confiscation.

The Hon. Mr. CHATHAM interpolated the remark that there was no restraint as to height of building when those lands were sold.

Mr. HOOPER rejoined that if a house was burnt down they would not be allowed to build to the same height as before.

Mr. HUMPHREYS seconded the amendment.

On a motion being taken the amendment was carried.

THE OBNOXIOUS SECTION.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL stated that he had given notice of motion regarding applications under section 175 of the Ordinance of 1903. In view of the possibility of the Commission now sitting considering this section and making suggested amendments, and considering that the interpretation of the section had not been clear and that it had been misinterpreted for two years, he proposed that in those special cases where it seemed good to the Board they should grant exemptions from backyards but where according to the section they were unable to do so, that they ask the Governor in Council to approve the suspension of proceedings enforcing the law pending consideration of the report. He further suggested that a sub-committee should be appointed to decide what should be the special cases under this section. He formally moved a resolution in those terms and that the Vice-President and the M.O.H. form the sub-committee.

Mr. HUMPHREYS seconded. He said it was time that a halt was called in that costly undertaking involved by carrying out the section and in order that they might be better able to count up the deal and wounded as it were he referred to the last census which showed the population of the Colony, including New Kowloon, to be 315,843. The estimated population for that year was 370,325, or 55,482 short. He did not mean to say that that number of people had actually been in the Colony, and allowing the estimate to be moderately correct, he thought that a good many Chinese had left the Colony. The question, naturally arose what was the cause of the Chinese leaving Hongkong? One had to go a little further than bird trail, to get to the bottom of it. His own opinion was that the drastic Ordinance of 1903, coupled with the very drastic manner in which it had

been carried out—sometimes illegally carried out by the Inspectors, had been the main cause of the exodus of Chinese. Although the whole exodus was not to be attributed to section 175, there was no doubt that that section had had something to do with it. He thought it was time to look round and see what corresponding good they had had to all the harm they had done. The resolution was carried.

THE CUBICLE QUESTION.

Mr. B. HARDING, acting under instructions of the tenant of the first floor of No. 55 Connaught Road Central applied under the proviso of section 19 of Ordinance 23 of 1903 for exemption from the requirements of such section in respect of three cubicles on the said floor. In the alternative he requested the Board to consider whether some modification could be made in regard to such cubicles. Should the Board not be able to consider either of these applications favourably, considerable hardship would be caused his client.

Hon. Mr. HEWITT mounted—If the house has been built after the passing of the new Ordinance, no hardship is entailed by the absence of cubicles as the man presumably was well aware of the law at the time the plans were drawn up.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—The cubicle question will never be settled so long as houses are allowed to be built which are uninhabitable by more than one family without partitions of some kind.

The PRESIDENT moved that the Registrar-General and the President be appointed a committee to grant permits on the recommendation of the M.O.H. with regard to the retention or otherwise of cubicles. There was no doubt, he continued, that there was considerable irritation with regard to the enforcement of that section. It entailed work of considerable difficulty on the inspectors who carried it out, and he thought it would be much more in accord with the wishes of the majority of the community if the informal notices now issued by inspectors were done away with and issued as far as possible by the Medical Officer of Health. The sub-committee should act on the recommendation of the M.O.H., that was to say, they should not simply enforce the section as it stood at present, because in all probability it would be modified when the report of the Commission was considered. It was practically impossible for the M.O.H. to personally inspect every case to see whether a cubicle should be retained or not, but as far as possible he would visit test cases and be guided by the reports of the senior inspectors.

Mr. HOOPER seconded. He took it that when an application was refused by the committee it would come before the Board.

The PRESIDENT—That is so. It will, however, limit the business of the Board very much.

Mr. HOOPER thought the proposition was on right lines. If the section had been worked on those lines there would have been less friction and more satisfaction to the community of Hongkong and to the Government.

The resolution was carried.

CEMETERY BYE-LAWS.

The revision of the Colonial Cemetery Bye-Laws was submitted, Mr. Hooper expressing his satisfaction that the inequality in the scale of fees had been removed.

A MUNIFICENT GIFT.

WINDFALL FOR BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

We are informed by a member of the Hongkong Benevolent Society that a cheque for \$10,000 has been received from Mr. H. N. Mody for the benefit of those who are looked after by the Society. Mr. Mody has for a quarter of a century been most liberal in his donations to the poor and suffering, and deserves every praise for his munificent gift. Now that a splendid start has been made to help a Society which is doing a noble work, but which is sorely in need of funds, it is suggested that other citizens should come forward with what they can spare and augment the handsome gift of Mr. Mody.

THE ROYAL VISIT.

MAGNIFICENT RECEPTION.

BRILLIANT SCENES AND PICTURESQUE CEREMONIES.

On Feb. 6th Hongkong was roused from its routine of work-a-day existence to give welcome to members of the reigning family of Great Britain, and needless to say the welcome was a right royal one, distinguished by the greatest cordiality and enthusiasm. Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and the Princess Patricia were received with many of the honours due to their exalted position and even greater entertainment would have been offered had they felt disposed to accept it. There was again that display of loyalty and affection to the Throne which royal visits, though few and far between in Hongkong, evoke on the part of the residents of the colony, and all classes joined in extending a welcome to our Royal guests.

Fortunately the weather was fine, and in the bright sunshine the ceremonies of the day were invested with a brilliance and a picturesqueness which must have impressed the event on the memory of all beholders. The day had been declared a public holiday, and the populace, young and old, took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the privilege so seldom given in this outpost of the Empire to gaze at representatives of the reigning family and to participate if only at a distance in the events of the day.

When day broke yesterday there was an air of excitement easily felt, and this deepened as the morning advanced. The gun fired shortly before eight o'clock told that the P. and O. steamer *Delhi* had maintained her punctuality which characterises the English mail and that the Royal visitors would be here in less than an hour. Soldiers began to appear and take up their positions on the route from Blake pier to Government House, while the regulations of traffic necessary to the occasion were put into operation. Bunting was lavishly exhibited, and a pleasing animation characterised the city.

ON THE HARBOUR.

On ordinary days the harbour of Hongkong presents attractive features which are to be seen in few ports of the world. Grim vessels of war, British and foreign, stately mercantile and out-of-date sailers lying at anchor amongst various native craft which to visitors, royal or otherwise, are always sources of wonder. Yesterday the natural beauties of our fine harbour were supplemented by the prettily dressed ships, launches and junks. The Chinese Dragon floated from the peaks of most of the junks lying in the West Point anchorage, while all the launches which formed the passage way through which the Royal party passed on their way to Blake pier displayed various forms of decoration which but time and forethought could have so tastefully arranged. The pressmen on the water were aboard the steam yacht *Canada*, which was kindly placed at their disposal by Mr. A. H. Bennie, and headed the right line of launches. Looking shoreward from this point of vantage, the Praya was observed to be densely packed at an early hour, while unusual number of banners floating from the flagpoles of European residences, and the decorations of Chinese hongs, pronounced the fact that it was a great gala day in Hongkong. At an early hour in the morning the sun was shining brightly, and gave promise of the beautiful day which succeeded. The heavy mist which obscured the Peak at eight o'clock, about the hour when the *Delhi* was signalled, had completely vanished by 9 a.m. and when the P. and O. liner dropped anchor with its royal passengers aboard a quarter of an hour later the city lay before them resplendent in all its holiday array, and all the mansions and forts of the Peak were visible.

As the *Delhi* steamed into port, Inspector Langley on the Police launch displayed great energy in clearing the road, while Mr. E. Jones, the Assistant Harbour Master, and Messrs. Melfer and Mugeus, boarding officers, were active in arranging the formation of the line of launches. When the vessel made fast H.E. the Governor and others put off in the Harbour

Master's launch *Victoria* and welcomed the royal party to Hongkong; then Admiral Moore left his flagship, the *King Alfred*, and accompanied by other naval officers in port boarded the *Delhi* to greet Their Royal Highnesses. The British party was followed by a Japanese launch on board of which was Admiral C. Tamari, and then came a French launch and cutter bearing Commander Foulneul and Captain Foltien to pay their respects.

After a brief stay on board, during which time all eyes were turned on the *Delhi*, H.E. the Governor returned to Blake Pier, and again the Government launch *Victoria* steamed for the P. and O. ship. By this time the *Delhi* appeared to be in charge of the naval and military. Plumed army officers took possession of the bridge and the upper deck while the bluejacket was to be seen in the forward part of the main deck busily signalling the fleet. In short, the unusual stir and bustle on board the merchantman at this time proclaimed the fact that the royal party were ready for the shore, and soon they were observed descending the gangway.

Four bells sounded just before the Harbour Master, Lieut. Beckwith, R.N., pushed off with the distinguished visitors, and as the *Victoria* cleared the liner the guns of the British and foreign war vessels in port belched forth in a royal salute, the echo of each shot reverberating among the hills as if to make more pronounced the hearty welcome of the populace. For a few moments the harbour presented the appearance of a naval battlefield, the warships being enveloped in dense clouds of smoke, but with the firing of the last gun this rapidly cleared away and revealed them as, gallantly dressed as any of the merchantmen. The *Delhi* also, which had but displayed the Union Jack at the peak while the Royal party were on board, was observed to be a mass of bunting by the time the landing was effected.

AT BLAKE PIER.

Blake Pier was of course the scene of great preparations. It was here that the Royal visitors were to land and it was here that the people massed to witness the event of the day. For some days beforehand the pier had been overrun by workmen and the greatest activities were in progress. The result of all that energy was really remarkable. Blake Pier looked quite imposing and was certainly worthy of the honour of inviting Their Royal Highnesses to step ashore and renew acquaintance with Hongkong. The pier itself had an outline of venetian masts, from which were suspended streamers, while a wealth of pot plants imparted a pleasing effect to the sides. A striking contrast to the green was the rich crimson cloth which covered the floor, and another touch of the picturesque was provided by the Baluchi guard of honour which was posted there. Stands had been erected at each side and these were crowded with ticket holders. The approach to the pier which had been raised for the occasion was also railed off, enabling the police to regulate the traffic and the soldiers the better to hold the route. The statue of the Duke of Connaught occupied the place of honour, facing the pier, and it certainly looked well with its floral embellishment. The buildings on the Praya were covered with bunting, perhaps the most lavish display being on King's Buildings, and from the Hongkong Hotel to the new Post Office strings of flags crossed the road.

By nine o'clock the people had begun to assemble. A dense crowd gathered at the approach to the pier, the balconies and verandahs commanding a view of the place were taxed to the limit of their capacity, and other corners of vantage were secured by the more daring. H.E. the Governor and H.E. the General having proceeded to the ship to pay their respects to their Royal Highnesses, the people on shore had their excitement quickened and most eyes were turned seawards. To receive the Royal party on the pier were H.E. Major General Broadwood, B., General Officer Commanding the troops in South China, Captain Bonham, A.D.C., Colonel Darling, Colonel Kent, Colonel Seymour, Colonel Aitken, Colonel Price, Colonel Moncrieff, Major Chichester, Major Ross, Major Williamson, Major Phelps, with Capt. M. A. Hamer in command of the guard of honour. The Reception Committee, consisting of the following gentlemen, attended: Sir Paul Chater,

Kt., C.M.G. (Chairman), The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., The Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, The Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.B., C.M., C.M.G., The Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, The Hon. Captain F. J. Badesley, The Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Lieut. C. Wm. Beckwith, B.N., Messrs. J. R. M. Smith, D. R. Law, A. J. Raymond, G. H. Medhurst, D. M. Nissim, G. Balloch, H. E. Tomkins, A. G. Wood, T. B. Cochrane, H. N. Mody, H. W. Looker, T. F. Hough (Hon. Secretary), Henry Humphreys, R. Shewan, Fung Wa Chun, Lau Chu Pak, Ho Kom Tong, Sé Po Sum, Ho Fook, U Hoi Chau and Pun Yan Chune. Besides the Hon. Mr. F. H. May, there were also present Mr. A. G. Wise (Puisne Judge), Mr. H. H. G. Gompertz (Attorney-General), H. E. Wu Ting Fang, Lady Piggott, Mrs. May, Bishop Pozzoni, Mr. A. G. Romano (Portuguese Consul General), Rev. G. Searle, Fr. Jordan, the Hon. Mr. L. A. M. Johnston, Hon. Dr. and Mrs. Atkinson, Dr. and Mrs. Thomson, Dr. Bateson Wright, Lieut. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Moxon, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. Shewan, Messrs. A. G. Morris, A. J. Raymond, A. H. Rennie, J. A. Jupp, H. P. Tooker, A. G. M. Fletcher, W. J. Tatcher, etc.

THE LANDING.

Punctual to the stroke of ten the guns of all the men-of-war in the harbour belched forth the royal salute, the report of the guns reverberating on both shores with a telling effect. This was the signal that the Royal party had boarded the *Victoria* and were now proceeding shorewards. The launch which had become the cynosure of all eyes was seen leaving the big ship, the large Union Jack at her stern almost trailing in the water. The gaze of all rested on the *Victoria* as she made her way past the line of beflagged launches, and in a minute or two she was alongside the pier. The Baluchi Band played the National Anthem as the Duke and Duchess reached the top of the steps and the guard came to the salute by presenting arms and raising the colours. Major General Broadwood, Colonel Darling and other officers had gone forward to receive their Royal Highnesses, and after a few words of greeting His Royal Highness, who wore the uniform of a Field Marshal, inspected the guard, which was drawn from the regiment named after himself. Then the royal party advanced to the end of the pier proper where the members of the Reception Committee and others were introduced to the Duke and Duchess. This over, Sir Paul Chater took up a position in front of the Duke, Duchess and Princess, and read the address of welcome which was in the following terms:

TO FIELD-MARSHAL HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCE ARTHUR WILLIAM PATRICK ALBERT,

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT AND OF STRATHEARN, K.G., K.T., K.P., GREAT MASTER AND PRINCIPAL KNIGHT OF THE GRAND CROSS OF THE ORDER OF THE BATH, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FORCES, ETC., ETC., ETC.

May it please Your Royal Highness:—

Seventeen years ago it was our great pleasure, in welcoming Your Royal Highness and Your Royal Consort to our Colony, to express our loyalty and devotion to our late beloved Queen whose loved and revered memory abides in the hearts of all of us who were Her subjects or who dwelt under Her rule. Again we seek to testify our loyalty and devotion to our Throne and to our Sovereign and gladly we rejoice in the opportunity of renewing our welcome and specially of extending it to Her Royal Highness Princess Patricia, the first of our Princesses to visit our shores.

The years that have elapsed since last you visited us have brought both prosperity and adversity to the Colony in their train. Plague and its ravages, war and its uncertainties, tempest and its havoc, have each in turn visited it and, passing by, have left deep footprints of their steps behind. Yet the Colony, though cast down, has not let itself be discouraged. Though faltering it has proceeded on its way. In spite of reverse it has progressed, has developed and marched forward, and to-day it stands looking back afar off to where it stood seventeen years ago.

In 1890 Your Royal Highness laid a stone, now embedded in the wall of the Cricket

Ground, which was to form the foundation of a Scheme for reclaiming large areas of dry land from the sea. To-day that reclamation is completed. To-day, on stepping on shore, the wharf under your feet, the stately buildings rising on all sides, intersected by broad roads and thronged by multitudinous traffic, proclaim the achievement of the task the Colony then set itself to perform. This reclamation, begun under your auspices, will remain indissolubly connected with your name, and, only a year ago, where now on it we stand to welcome you, we came to welcome your only son. To you who aided its inception, who laid the first stone, we now show, with pride, the finished work and ask "IS IT WELL DONE?"

The population of the Colony, on whose behalf and in whose name we greet Your Royal Highness, has now swelled to nearly double its former numbers; its area has been largely extended; from being the third shipping port in the world it has become the first; and, not the least step in all its progress, the last few months have seen the making within its boundaries of the first embankments of that Railway which is to connect us with Canton, and in time, we trust, with Europe.

Interwoven as the history of our Empire is with the history of the battles that have won it, of the Navy and Army which have preserved it, of the men who have fought for it, it is a source of pride and gratification to all of us who, the subjects of our beloved Ruler, look to him for succour and protection, that the soldier he sends to see that the land defences which guard us are secure, is not a soldier only but also the brother of our King.

From all people who dwell here in security beneath His Reign, from all his subjects, from all those subjects of other nations who dwell amongst us, and particularly from the large numbers of Chinese who carry on their business unmolested and protected in our midst, we tender to Your Royal Highness, to Your Royal Consort and to Princess Patricia a most sincere and a most hearty welcome with every wish for a long continued and happy life.

We sincerely regret that the duration of your visit does not permit our celebrating it in as fitting a manner as we would desire; but we realise that you have duties both here and elsewhere in the Empire which you must perform and we hope that you will accept the slight entertainment we are able to offer you as an earnest of what we should like to carry out did time and your engagements permit.

We wish you a fair voyage and a safe return home, and we beg you, on reaching England, to convey to our beloved King a message assuring him of the loyalty and devotion we bear towards him and of our appreciation of his recent kindly telegram, full of kindly sympathy, which deeply touched us and made us feel that we, though living on the utmost border of the Empire, are ever in the mind of our Gracious Sovereign.

6th February, 1907.

Sir PAUL handed the bound address to His ROYAL HIGHNESS, who in a firm, audible voice replied as follows:—Gentlemen,—Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Connaught and myself, are delighted to renew our acquaintance with Hongkong, and cordially thank you and its community, for the loyal and hearty welcome you have given to us. My daughter, Princess Patricia who is, as you say, the first princess of my family to visit your shores, desires me to thank you for the very kind allusions to her in your address. I can assure you, Gentlemen, that from His Majesty, The King-Emperor, all classes in Great Britain have heard, with the deepest concern, of your struggles with adversity, of the ravages of the plague, and of the havoc and deplorable loss of life caused by the recent typhoon. It is a source of great pride to us, Britons, to know that with a less vigorous and energetic community than yours, these terrible inflictions might well have caused your ruin. I pray, now, that these are matters of the past, that there is an era of unbroken commercial prosperity before you, also that the developments and progress, so well begun, will continue and prosper.

The unbounded commercial prospects of the Far East, the probable development of your great neighbour, that wonderful and friendly nation China, has aroused the keen interest and competition of all Western nations and of

America. It is therefore a peculiar pleasure to us to think how well placed Hongkong is to fight the battles for commercial supremacy; the value and importance of this great port is fully appreciated by those at Home who watch over and guide the destinies of our Empire.

I am indeed proud to have been, 17 years ago, associated with the initial stages of the great work of reclamation, which you have so successfully carried out.

I am also very glad to hear that a railway is shortly to connect you with Canton and, I hope, ultimately with Europe.

His Majesty the King-Emperor, who takes the greatest interest in his Far Eastern dominions, will be delighted when he hears from me of the heroic efforts you have made to overcome your difficulties and of the continued increase and prosperity of this Colony.

I will convey to him the loyal expressions contained in your address.

As for ourselves, we thank you most heartily, and we greatly appreciate the kind sentiments in this address which I have very much pleasure in accepting.

The conclusion of the address was received with cheers, after which the party entered the chairs which were in waiting and proceeded along the Praya, past the Naval Yard, and up Garden Road to Government House. The route was held by the R.G.A., H.K.S.B.R.G.A., Royal Engineers, 3rd Middlesex Regiment, the Baluchis, and the Chinese sappers of the R.E., while the Hongkong Volunteers had the place of honour at Government House. The escort was furnished by the Volunteer Troop under Lieut. Ross and by a posse of Indian police in charge of Sergt. Garrrod. A dense crowd lined the route and the greatest order prevailed. When the Royal visitors reached Government House the band played the National Anthem and the Union Jack was replaced by the Royal Standard.

The party comprised Field Marshal H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught, Princess Patricia, with Major General Sir John Maxwell, staff officer and Captain the Hon. M. Pousonby, Grenadier Guard, aide-de-camp, Miss Pelly and Captain Coleman.

THE UNVEILING CEREMONY.

Not the least pleasing of the many functions which His Royal Highness had to perform, was that of unveiling the statues of His Majesty the King and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. Long before the appointed time there was not a vacant seat on the stands surrounding Statue Square, while the balconies, and even the roofs of Queen's and Prince's buildings, were black with spectators. The arrival of the Royal party was announced by the band of the Middlesex regiment striking up "God save the King". Then Their Royal Highnesses and H.E. the Governor alighted from the Government House chairs and were met by Sir Paul Chater, who conducted them to the dais before the statue of His Majesty, the suite and the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Mr. T. F. Hough and Captain Armstrong, H.K.V.C., his Excellency's honorary A.D.C., following in the rear.

SIR PAUL CHATER said: Your Royal Highness—In 1837 Hongkong as well as all other parts of the British Empire celebrated the jubilee of your Illustrious Mother, our beloved late Queen Victoria. It was then decided that one of the most fitting ways by which we could commemorate the event was by the erection by public subscription of a statue of Her Majesty to be placed in some suitable position in the Colony. In due time it became my honour, as Chairman of the Jubilee Committee, to ask Sir William Robinson, the Governor of the Colony at the time, to perform the ceremony of unveiling that statue which now stands in the centre of this square. On that occasion the idea occurred to me of endeavouring to further embellish the square by statues of our reigning Sovereign, whom may God long preserve, our beloved Queen Alexandra and Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Statues of His Majesty the King and of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales you are asked to unveil to-day. The statue of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra has been subscribed for by the community of the Colony as a fitting memorial of the

Coronation of Their Majesties in 1902, and we hope shortly to see it erected and in place. I am happy to be now in a position to state that my friend and partner, Mr. H. N. Mody, has offered to present to this Colony the statue of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and the permission of His Majesty the King for its erection is being sought. When all these statues are erected, this Colony, the first acquisition of our late Queen's reign and the first to perpetuate her beloved name, will possess within its City of Victoria a square of which it may justly be proud. The site on which we now stand was in 1887 a part of the harbor. Your Royal Highness will readily recall to mind that in 1890 you laid the foundation stone of this reclamation which, now complete, has added so large an area to our island and provided us with so fitting a position whereon to place these memorials of our great Queen Victoria the Good, of her son and grandson and of their consorts. It is, I feel, a very happy opportunity which enables the first of these statues, which have been erected, to be unveiled by your hand, marking as it does in a measure the culmination of that work which you initiated seventeen years ago. I will now ask Your Royal Highness to unveil the statue of His Majesty the King.

His Royal Highness then pulled the rope which loosened the covering enveloping the statue, and as this fell away thousands of eyes rested on the magnificent present which Sir Paul Chater has made to the Colony.

Mr. T. F. Hough called for three cheers for the King, to which the spectators responded with hearty good will.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, in reply to Sir Paul, said—I thank you for the great pleasure and honour you have done me in asking me to unveil what is to me the first statue of our gracious Sovereign. The community of Hongkong owes you a deep debt of gratitude for having presented such a fine statue of His Majesty which is also to be followed by one of the Queen. In this fine square which you remind me was only a few years ago a part of the harbour, you will have one of the greatest ornaments that any city could wish to have, and I congratulate Hongkong on the possession, not only of a fine statue of my beloved mother, Queen Victoria, but also of one of my brother, the King. As I said in answering your very kind address, there is no one who takes a deeper interest in the future prosperity and steady advancement of this great and important port than His Majesty, and I am happy to think that you and H.B. the Governor have given me this opportunity of being a second time associated with your city, this time in unveiling a statue of His Majesty the King whom we, and those who follow after, will always look up to and always respect as one who has done his utmost to follow in the footsteps of our late beloved sovereign; and it will teach the rising generation to look up to the Sovereign who, ever since he has been on the throne, has done his utmost to promote all that tends to advancement and prosperity of empire, and to the peace of the world.

His Royal Highness and party were then conducted to the dais before the statue of the Prince of Wales where the

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson said: Your Royal Highness—On behalf of Mr. James Jardine Bell-Irving, who has left the Colony, I have the honour to ask you to unveil this statue of the Prince of Wales.

Again the Duke pulled the rope and the enveloping shroud fell, revealing another handsome statue.

Once more Mr. Hough called for three cheers which were accorded with right goodwill, the band following with the air "God bless the Prince of Wales."

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS then replied to Mr. Gresson—I have much pleasure in unveiling this most excellent statue of my nephew, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, heir to the throne.

H.E. THE G. VERNOR—I beg to thank your Royal Highness on behalf of the Colony.

COMPLIMENTARY VISITS.

The Royal party had tiffin at Government House, after which the Duke proceeded to the *King Alfred* and paid a call on Admiral Moore, subsequently visiting the Japanese Admiral on board his flagship the *Takachiho*.

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE KO SHING THEATRE.

Apparently these calls were responsible for the delay in the arrival of the Duke and Duchess at the Ko Shing Theatre where the local Chinese Committee had arranged a tea and entertainment which was not the least interesting part of the royal programme. The exterior of the building was adorned with typical Chinese floral emblems, but when inside there was a very striking change noticeable. The interior had been completely transformed. It certainly was a thing of beauty. Crimson cloth was freely employed in covering the gallery and the bare wood work, and festoons were suspended on the front of the gallery and stretched across from side to side, while floral baskets, hung at intervals from the roof, formed a pretty feature of the general scheme of decoration. Above the stage was the word "Welcome" in large floral letters, this being flanked by a crown on either side. Facing the stage were large embroideries which won the first prize at the Canton Exhibition and which it was the intention of the Chinese Committee to present to the Royal visitors, together with silver tea bowls and a large carved ivory ball with 24 pieces inside. All along Queen's Road the Chinese were gathered in large numbers and it seemed as if almost the entire native population turned out to see the distinguished visitors. Undoubtedly there was no gainsaying the fact that the Chinese were keenly interested in the proceedings of the day.

Not till close upon five o'clock did the Royal party arrive. They were received by the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, the Hon. Mr. Wei Ynk, Messrs. Lau Chu Pak, Fung Wa Chun, Ho Fook, Ho Kom Tong, Pan Yan Chun, U Hoi Chan, She Po Shan, with the Hon. Mr. Brown, and conducted to their seats at a specially decorated table. The Duke and Duchess led the way, followed by the Princess and the Governor.

The guests were arranged six at a table, one place being occupied by one of the Chinese gentlemen acting as host. In addition to the chopsticks laid on the table there was a small fork which was doubtless appreciated by the many not initiated into the use of the Chinese articles. The menu was as under:

Menu.—Birds' Nests and Pigeons' Eggs in Syrup. 1—Mashed Bean Turnovers. 2—Walnut and Hawthorn Cakes. 3—Pea Cakes.

Lotus Nuts in Syrup. 4—Herb Cakes. 5—Sesamum Seed and Apple dumplings. 6—Rose Puffs.

Almond Cream. 7—Ham Cakes. 8—Jam Sandwiches. 9—Nut Pudding.

Tea (Water Fairy) 10—Mince Dumplings. 11—Crab Kisses. 12—Shrimp Rolls. 13—Dried Lychees. 14—Dried Apricots. 15—Melon Seeds. 16—Almonds. 17—Preserved Tomatoes. 18—Preserved Kumquat. 19—Preserved Plums. 20—Preserved Ginger.

The Chinese theatricals were presented by a "number one" company. While much of the performance was unintelligible to the uninitiated, the programme was useful in giving an outline of the proceedings. The orchestra was divided from the stage by the usual screen which however did not hide the movements of the musicians which were almost as interesting as those of the actors. The costumes worn by the performers were very elaborate and costly and as a picturesque effect the performance was indeed striking. The tumblers and acrobats were particularly good and provoked the applause of the audience. Appended is the programme:—

I—The Eight Genii congratulate the Queen of Heaven on her birthday.

II—A performance in dumb-show wishing the Royal and Distinguished Visitors advancement and happiness.

III—The gift of a son by the Seven Fairies.

IV—The King of Heaven celebrates his birthday.

The King of Heaven is represented on his Throne. The god of prosperity, the god of rank, the god of wealth, the god of pleasure, the queen of the Western Seas, the goddess of the isles, the god of longevity, the gods of wind and rain, together with other gods, are in attendance to offer their homage and felicitations.

V—Tumblers and Acrobats.

VI—A General passes sentence of death on his son.

In the time of the Sung a famous general passed sentence of death upon his only son for marrying a lady who was chieftain of a band of outlaws. His two lieutenants pleaded unsuccessfully for his life. Just before the execution was to take place the aged mother of the general was sent for, but her intercession was also unavailing. Next an Imperial Prince, the brother of the Reigning Monarch begged the young man's life, but all in vain. In the nick of time the young chieftain herself appeared on the scene, and by the offer of a magic wand by which alone the death of the opposing general could be effected, and by a solemn promise to grant the aid of her gallant band in the coming campaign, she induced him to revoke the sentence of death.

Invitations were issued to H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, H.R.H. The Duchess of Connaught, Princess Patricia, General Maxwell, Miss Pelly, and Captain Ponsonby, A.D.C.

Hon. Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., Capt. H. C. Coleman, Mr. R. A. Ponsonby, Lieut. A. B. Ogle.

H.E. Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur Wm. Moore, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.M.G., and Capt. Charles H. Rowe, R.N.

H.E. Major General R. G. Broadwood, C.B., and Capt. E. H. Bonham, A.D.C.

Commodore and Mrs. H. P. Williams, and Mr. H. W. Woodward.

Hon. Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Atkinson, Colonel and Mrs. Atken.

Dr. A. Van de Sande Bakhuizen, Mr. A. Van Biechet, Mr. and Mrs. G. Murray Bain, Sir Henry and Lady Berkeley and Misses Berkeley, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Brewin, Lieut. Charles W. Beckwith, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Badesley, Mr. H. F. Butterworth, Mr. A. Babington, Mr. L. Berinlogue, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Broadwood, Mr. J. Burton, Mr. J. Budge, Miss Blair, Mr. G. Balloch, Mr. F. B. L. Cowley, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bolles.

Major and Mrs. Chichester, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. W. Chatham and Miss Chatham, Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Cruickshank, Mr. G. de Champaux, Mr. T. P. Cochrane, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Craddock, Mr. and Mrs. A. Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. D. Cousland, and Mr. J. McCubbin.

Lt. Col. Darling, R.E., Mr. W. Danby, Mr. A. J. David, Mr. E. David, and Baroness von Dalwigk.

Mr. L. Engel and Mr. C. Ewens.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Forbes, Mr. E. Freyvogel, Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, and Mr. G. Friedland, Mr. J. E. Gresson, Mr. and Mrs. E. Goetz, Dr. and Mrs. Gimlette, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Gordon, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Hon. Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, and Mr. C. S. Gubbay.

Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Mr. and Mrs. H. Humphreys, Mr. and Mrs. Misses Shelton Hooper, Mr. A. Haupt, Dr. and Mrs. G. H. M. Harston, Mr. T. Hanman, Mr. and Mrs. R. Hancock, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hewett, Mr. H. E. R. Hunter and Miss Hunter, Mr. T. F. Hough, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Harston, Miss Rose, Mrs. Hornby, and Mr. and Mrs. P. Hett.

Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Irving.

Dr. and Mrs. G. P. Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Jupp, and Mr. F. Jung.

Lt. Col. and Mrs. Kent, Dr. and Mrs. W. V. M. Kock, Dr. and Mrs. F. Krueger, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Kadoorie, Mr. Ellis Kadoorie, Mr. W. Kiev, and M. Kobayashi.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Looker, Mr. D. R. Law, Capt. and Mrs. Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. G. Liebert, Mr. C. R. Lenzmann, Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Leefe, Mr. and Mrs. B. Layton and Miss Layton, Mrs. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, and Capt. and Mrs. Vaughan-Lee.

Miss Moorhead, Capt. and Mrs. Muller, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Mihar, Mr. C. D. Melbourne, Mr. G. H. Medhurst, Mr. and Mrs. F. Maitland, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Marty, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. M. von, Mr. H. N. Mody, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. F. H. May, Dr. O. Marriott, and Dr. and Mrs. Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Nissim, and Dr. J. W. Noble.

Hon. Mr. and Mrs. E. Osborne and Mr. and Mrs. E. Ormiston.

Hon. Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Pollock, Lt. Col. and Mrs. Price, Mr. W. R. M. D. Parr, Sir Francis and Lady Piggott, Mr. and Mrs.

Engineer Commander Y. Iwasaki and Mr.
F. V. Izard, R.A.,

Major and Mrs T. P. Jones, Captain W. C. Jones, R.M.L.I., Staff Surgeon and Mrs R. H. Jones, Assistant Paymaster E. P. Jones, Dr E. Evan Jones, Dr and Mrs K. Justi, Miss Jacobs, Mr and Mrs H. Jessen, Mr. and Mrs Edward Jones, Mr. F. Jones, Messrs B. James, C. H. Neill James, R.N., H. T. Jackman, D. Jaffe, J. J. Judah, J. C. Joughin, R.C.N.C., P. Jacks, I. A. M. Johnston, Patrick Jones, Dr and Mrs G. P. Jordan, Miss Lee Jones, Mr. A. Jahrand,

Dr and Mrs Kruger, Mrs L. C. Kerr, Colonel and Mrs Kent, Dr and Mrs F. H. Kew, Lieutenant K. Koga, Lieut. J. Kiddle, Dr Koch, Captain R. E. E. Krickbeck, Major H. J. Kelsall, Messrs F. C. Kendall, T. Kuwada, H. W. Kent, J. C. Kitamantil, P. H. Klimanek, J. H. Kemp, H. M. Kendall, F. V. B. Kirwan, Lieutenant T. C. Lethbridge, Captain and Mrs F. W. Lyons, Captain and Mrs C. F. G. Low, Rev. Mr and Mrs Longridge, Mr and Mrs B. Layton and Miss Layton, Mr and Mrs H. E. Stanger Leathers, Mr and Mrs E. C. Lane, Mr and Mrs G. Liebert, Mr and Mrs J. Leiria, Mr and Mrs H. W. Looker, Miss M. D. Lee, Miss Loureiro, Miss M. Loureiro, Messrs A. F. D. Livesey, H. Lehmann, W. L. Leask, J. C. Lowe, A. R. Lowe, L. V. Langstein, P. Loureiro, L. C. Larmour, J. C. Lecky, L. K. Leeson, C. E. Libeaud, E. P. H. Lang, E. C. Lewis, C. J. La Frentz, E. H. Lock, R. Lenzmann, P. Lehrs,

Mr and Mrs A. C. More, Dr and Mrs W. B. A. Moore, Mr and Mrs A. S. Mihara, Mrs J. Macdonald, Mr and Mrs G. C. Moxon, Eng. Lieutenant B. McQueen, Captain D. Macdonald, Rev. P. M. de Maria, Messrs T. H. Martin, A. G. de Medeiros, F. Macdonald, W. D. T. Morrish, G. H. Medhurst, H. A. Meyer, C. D. Melbourne, F. Matsuyama, R. Maten, G. P. de Martin, E. A. G. May, Lieut. Colonel and Mrs Scott Moncrieff, Commander J. P. de Montmorency, Lieutenant M. A. Marshall, Dr and Mrs J. E. Mitchell, Captain C. L. Mayhew, Dr O. Marriott, Eng. Lieutenant McGregor, Commander H. L. Mawby, Assistant Paymaster P. D. E. Marks, Mrs G. C. Master, Miss Master, Miss J. Marchant, Mrs and Miss P. Macdonald, Messrs H. G. Moore, L. M. Murphy, K. Matsuda, F. Macdonald, G. Muller, F. A. Maclean, V. E. F. de Marney, F. Matsuki, W. A. Moore, A. P. Marty, A. M. Marshall, J. Muller, J. E. V. Morton, C. W. May, G. E. Morrell, A. Moreno,

Mr and Mrs M. S. Northcote, Mr and Mrs R. H. Newborn, Father Noval, Surgeon F. Nakajima, Eng. Lieutenant Y. Notta, Captain J. D'Oyly, Dr J. W. Noble, Messrs Negner, P. H. Nye,

Mr and Mrs E. Ormiston, Mr A. H. Ough. Major H. P. Parker, Lieutenant Colonel Price, Major H. de F. Phillips, Major L. H. Barry, Captain B. S. Phillpotts, Major J. W. Perry, Rev. and Mrs T. W. Pearce, Miss C. H. Pearce, Miss Picard, Mrs J. A. Plummer, Mr and Mrs T. Patrie, Mr and Mrs T. L. Perkins, Mr and Mrs W. Parlance and Miss Parlance, Captain and Mr O. L. Price, Mrs C. H. U. Price Messrs T. E. Pearce, C. Pemberton, A. C. Putley, I. Plummer, H. B. Phelps, B. Percival, E. V. D. Parr, J. I. Macpherson, J. I. Plummer, A. N. Paxton, J. B. Picton, L. D. Philpot, J. Pirnitzer, Captain W. A. Quenne,

Mr, Mrs and Miss A. Rodger, Mrs C. V. Shaw Rice, Consul Romano, Mrs and Misses S. B. Rowe, Mrs and Miss F. Robinson, Mr and Mrs Ralphs, Mr and Mrs H. Rissland, Mr and Mrs W. Ramsay, Mrs Richards, Mr and Mrs E. A. Ram, Mr and Mrs N. H. Rutherford, Lieut. F. A. H. Russel, Messrs O. S. D. Rowe, P. Roque, L. Robert, A. G. Roberts, C. H. Rowe, A. G. Raymond, A. R. F. Raven, Lieut. Colonel J. M. Reid,

Major and Mrs Stevenson, Mr and Mrs Grant Smith, Mr and Mrs M. J. D. Stephens, Dr and Mrs F. O. Stedman, Mr and Mrs F. Southey, Captain and Mrs T. Skinner, Captain and Mrs F. H. Sargent, Miss Spedding, Miss Smith, Mr and Mrs B. de Szentirmay, Miss K. L. Stewart, Dr Alice Sibree, Miss Skipton, Miss Sands, Miss R. Stacey, Lieut. Colonel and Mrs E. H. Seymour, Miss M. Saunders, Capt. J. B. S. Shinkwin, Eng. Lieut. A. G. F. Satter, Dr J. H. Sanders, Lieut. P. A. Shepherd, Commander K. Senshiu, Lieut. Y. Sakakura, Staff Surgeon E. C. Sawdy, Captain C. G.

Spedding, Rev. G. Searle, Major G. W. R. Stephenson, Messrs H. A. Siebs, R. H. Scovell, P. O'Sullivan, G. M. Smith, J. R. M. Smith, E. G. Smith, F. Smyth, R. A. J. Savage, A. W. Schellhass, H. W. Sayer, H. Percy Smith, J. H. Seth, A. Sheffield, J. C. Steen, T. Saggie, J. M. P. da Silva, M. W. Slade, C. R. Satterthwaite, T. H. Stainlow, N. G. S. Simson, R. T. B. Sayle,

Major and Miss C. T. Terrett, Dr and Mrs J. C. Thomson, Captain, Mrs and Miss Thompson, Lieut. Commander and Miss Lloyd-Thomas, Mrs H. P. Tooker, Mr and Mrs W. Tatcher, Captain K. Tonami, Lieut. T. Tosu, Mr and Mrs T. Takamichi, Captain A. Thompson, Captain G. B. Thornhill, Captain J. A. Tuke, Messrs T. G. Turnbull, A. Tillett, T. H. Tannent, S. M. Thorne, T. Toledano, J. M. G. Taylor, H. Tiffenbacher, W. Taylor, C. Thiel, W. C. D. Turner,

Messrs W. Von Uffel and S. Usher, 129th Baluchis,

Captain and Mrs C. G. Varoker, Mr and Mrs T. C. Vernon, Mrs F. W. Woodley-Valpy, and Mr L. Vegner,

Mr and Mrs W. B. Walker, Mr and Mrs E. C. Wilks, Mr and Mrs M. Watson, Mr and Mrs Wendt, Mr and Mrs Van der Woude, Captain and Mrs G. R. Wait, Mr and Mrs A. Wilson, Mr and Mrs G. A. Woodcock, Miss Williams, Miss Wingate, Miss Wilkinson, Miss I. Whiteley, Mrs T. Wakefield, Consul General A. P. Wilder, Major W. A. Williamson, Captain H. I. Walker, Captain G. G. Wood, Engineer Commander Watkins, Messrs J. R. Wood, A. G. Wood, F. Walker, Dr Newell Wilson, Messrs A. T. Walker, C. D. Wilkinson, J. W. White, H. P. White, J. B. Wischart, W. L. Weaser, P. Wodehouse, H. V. Wilkinson, A. W. Watt, P. B. Wolff, R. de W. Waller, C. M. T. Western, W. H. Wickham, A. E. Wright, A. J. Williams and G. H. Wakeman,

Mr N. Yamada, Messrs Chu Sik Yue, Chan Yue Ting, Chan Poy Kai, Choa Leep Chee, Choy Siu Wan, K. A. Chek, Chan Pun Po, Chan Chuck Hing, Chan Tsz Wan, Chan King Wun, Fung Wa Chun, Goh Lee Kheng, Ku Shan Chuen, Ho Kom Tong, Ho Fook, Jay Yun Chee, Ku Fai Shan, Lee Ping Shek, Leung Ting Nam, Leo Kit Ting, Li Yan Tsun, Leung Shiu Kong, Li Po Lung, Lo Koon Ting, Li Man Leung, La Yum Chuen, Li Po Kwai, Li Kin Tong, Li A Pak, Lau Chin Ting, Leung Ngan Pui, Leung Kin On, Li San Hin, Li Tsz Hi, Lau Chu Pak, Mui King Shek, Pow Tak Hang, Quan Cho Ching, Quan Kai, Siu Yuen Fai, S. W. Tso, Ting Lan Kok, Tang Chi Ngan, Tsoi Kwai Ng, Tan Tsz Kong, Tang Lap Ting, Tong Lai Chuen, U Hoi Chan, Wong San Kew, Wa Wing Hong, Yin Oi Shan, Yung Hin Pong, Pui Yan Chuen, Yung Shio Po, You Ping Yee.

HYGIENE EXAMINATION.

H.E. the Governor having again kindly offered prizes for the encouragement of the study of hygiene examinations were held on the 3rd December last, at which all the principal government and aided schools of the Colony competed.

His Excellency presented the prizes to the successful candidates at Government House yesterday at noon. They were as follows:—

ADVANCED COURSE.

First	Clau Iu-chung	Ellis Katoorie School.	240
	Carlos Sequiera	St. Joseph's College.	240
	Wan Shuk-ching	Belilios School.	230
Second	Chan Chiu-yun	Diocesan Boys' School.	220

ELEMENTARY COURSE.

The successful team of ten competitors came from the Diocesan Boys' School which thus becomes the holder of the shield for one year. Prizes were also given for the best papers in the winning and the two next teams, and were awarded to the following:—

Manuel Leita	Diocesan Boys' School.	220
Alice Brandt	Italian Convent.	220
Flora Rozario	Belilios Public School.	220

On Feb. 4th afternoon the sea gave up the bodies of two more Chinese who were drowned in the recent squall. One was discovered by the police off Bank wharf while the other was found off the Yaumati wharf. Both were removed to the mortuary.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, February 4th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

LEAVE TO APPEAL.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist made a formal application on behalf of Messrs. J. Ullmann and Company for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the judgment of the Full Court in the case of Ullmann, appellants, and Leuba, respondents, and for a stay of proceedings under the judgment.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. Hastings appeared for the respondents, and took exception to the application to stay all proceedings under the judgment.

The Chief Justice pointed out that if the execution was stayed the injunction was stopped.

Sir Henry agreed, but went on to explain that the appellants were suffering considerable loss in consequence of the injunction. Should they succeed ultimately they would have had extremely heavy loss by not having sold those particular watches for a couple of years. The respondents ought to give an undertaking that they would recoup that serious loss which the appellants were suffering by not selling. Justice required that they be not restrained from selling but that they give security to abide by any decision of the Privy Council. The order was that appellants give an account of all sales.

After discussion, Sir Henry Berkeley asked that the execution be stayed on appellants' undertaking not to sell until the order of the Privy Council was received. It was the question of costs that he was concerned with at present. Why should the appellants be called upon to pay several thousand dollars' costs now, when they might ultimately succeed? There was no security for the repayment of those costs.

The Chief Justice said the question was whether they should allow the injunction to continue.

Mr. Slade argued that the authorities were emphatic that security for the costs must be given. There was no reason why they should pay the costs which they might ultimately recover.

The Chief Justice—The rule is that the costs are paid.

Sir Henry—It is very important because Mr. Leuba is out of jurisdiction. There is no business in Hongkong that can be proceeded against. If Mr. Hastings gives his personal guarantee to refund the costs in the event of our succeeding that will get us out of the difficulty.

Mr. Slade—That is the practice. We are willing to do it.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I would ask your Lordships in view of the circumstances of a highly debatable point not to make us pay. We may very well succeed in the Privy Council on the points raised in this Court, having regard to the fact that the Court was divided in opinion. If we pay the costs and succeed we shall be out of pocket in any event.

The Chief Justice—It cuts both ways.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Both parties are precisely in the same position. If their costs are \$5,000, probably ours are the same. Why penalise us by making us pay?

The Chief Justice—The other side have got the judgment.

The order of the Court was that leave to appeal be granted subject to the payment of security, that no accounts be taken or watches handed over, and that the injunction stand.

BUILDING ORDINANCE LITIGATION.

An appeal and a cross appeal arising out of Magisterial decisions under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance were heard. In the first case the appellant was Fung Chun Yuen and the respondents were the Building Authority. Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. D. V. Stevenson from the office of Messrs. Deacon Looker, and Deacon, appeared for the appellants and the Attorney-General (Mr. H. H. J. Gomperts), instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, acted for the respondents.

The case stated by the Magistrate (Mr. F. A. Hazeland) was to the effect that on the 18th July, 1906, a complaint was preferred by the Building Authority against Fung Chun Yuen under sections 230 and 259 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 19-3, charging him with neglecting to comply with the requirements of a notice dated 29th June, 1906, requiring him to remove certain illegal wrought iron partitions at Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 5 Hill Road. His Worship held that the notice was bad, but convicted the appellant for contravention of section 222 sub-section 1, for having commenced building the iron partitions without proper plans being previously submitted to the Building Authority and approved by that authority, and imposed a fine of \$100. At the Police Court on 16th October, 1906, a complaint was preferred by the respondents against appellant under section 230 of the Ordinance for that he on the 16th September failed to comply with the requirements of a notice dated 8th September, 1906, duly served requiring him to remove the whole of the iron partition walls which had been erected in contravention of section 222. The defendant pleaded *res judicata* and not guilty. On the 13th November, 1906, the Magistrate held that the conviction of the appellant on 31st July was not a bar to the complaint of the 16th October and that the plea of *res judicata* could not be maintained. The question of law which arose for the opinion of the Court was whether the conviction of the appellant on 31st July, 1906, was or was not a bar to the complaint of the 16th October, 1906.

In the cross appeal the case stated by the Magistrate showed that the question of law for the opinion of the Court was whether the contravention of section 222 of the Ordinance was a nuisance within the meaning of section 229 of the Ordinance.

The Attorney-General opened the case for the Crown, and justified the Ordinance as framed to deal with the peculiar local conditions.

Mr. Slade contended that if the plans conformed to the Ordinance the Building Authority was bound to approve of them. In that case it was not suggested that the plans did not conform to the ordinance in any single thing. The Authority wished to make the man pull down the house again. Otherwise there was no ground for their persistent persecution of this man. He challenged his friend to show a single flaw in the plans.

The Chief Justice—You say the Building Authority has no discretion?

Mr. Slade—No discretion under that section. If the plans conform to the building regulations he is bound to approve them. Otherwise we will have this dictatorial authority imposing all sorts of conditions to work its wicked will upon this Colony. The discretion vested in the Building Authority is limited by law. It is a matter of immense importance as to whether this dictatorial power is to be conferred on the Building Authority.

The Chief Justice (to the Attorney-General)—Do you admit this proposition?

The Attorney-General—If there is a discretion the amount is limited.

Mr. Slade went on to complain of the regular course of persecution to which the appellant had been subjected. He further contended that a fair and reasonable construction must be placed upon the words in an Ordinance of that kind.

The Chief Justice—Assuming it to be a technical contravention is there no other penalty provided for except by refusal of approval?

Mr. Slade—In so many words there is no other penalty provided. What are your Lordships asked in this case? You are asked to say that the iron partition is a nuisance merely because it was erected without consent having been previously obtained. It is not suggested that it harms anybody. It is not suggested that in itself it is a contravention of any provisions of the Ordinance. Yet your Lordships are asked to hold that in itself it is a nuisance. Counsel then proceeded to argue as to the definition of the word nuisance. The only ground of the prosecution was that it was a nuisance because the consent of the Building Authority had not been obtained. It must be assumed there was no other ground. He submitted that it was not less a proper building because the owner had committed some isolated act of impropriety in

connection therewith. The owner had only done that in order to get out of a difficulty. It did not effect the finished condition of the structure which, having been put up without the consent of the Building Authority, surely was not to be pulled down for no other reason than the Building Authority's disapproval. It might be pulled down and the Building Authority would have to give his approval to another set of identical plans. The injury inflicted on the man would be enormous. It takes months and months to get plans through, and knowing this the appellant commenced building, knowing that his plans conformed to the regulations. That did not amount to a nuisance. He submitted that their Lordships must read the meaning in that word nuisance in accordance with the law before that Act was passed. He submitted (1) that the meaning given to the word nuisance in that section must be considered as something different from an offence or a contravention in any other portion of the Ordinance; (2) taking the whole scheme of the Act they must read the whole of that section as applying to cases which were injurious in some sense. Continuing, he said the decision in this case gave the Building Authority a great deal more power than mere delay. It gave him an immense power over the unfortunate builders. It enabled him to exercise a discretion not permitted under the Act. It enabled him to enforce his personal will upon the owners by delay.

The Attorney-General—He is making serious allegations.

Mr. Slade—That is so.

The Chief Justice—Against public officers.

The Pious Judge—You have a Commission sitting just now which will sweep all these objections away.

Mr. Slade—I hope it will. Some officials are better than others. Some have more sensible ideas than others.

The Chief Justice—You mean that a bad official may delay business?

Mr. Slade—Yes. Continuing, he asked their Lordships to hesitate to put such power in the hands of an official.

The Chief Justice—The whole thing has arisen through combining public health with buildings. They are two separate subjects.

The Attorney-General—They are separate parts.

After further discussion, Mr. Slade resumed his seat, and

The Attorney-General replied dwelling on the meaning of the word nuisance and showing the necessity for the local Ordinances being more drastic than the Home Acts. He submitted that if the appellant complained that the Building Authority did not perform his duty by approving the plan, the proper course would be for appellant to apply for a *mandamus* to require the Building Authority to discharge his office. He contended that the first offence lay in not submitting a plan and the second in not getting the plan approved. That was a continuing offence of which the Crown complained.

The Chief Justice remarked to Mr. Slade that if judgment went in his favour the effect would be to do away with the obligation to submit plans to the Building Authority.

Mr. Slade replied that if a building was put up without complaint and it was not in conformity with the Ordinance the owner could be required to pull it down. If it was in conformity the case could be met by a fine.

Judgment was reserved.

The second appeal was then taken.

Mr. Slade said no man could be fined for the same offence twice. Tung Chun Yuen had been fined \$100 under section 222 for not putting in plans.

The Attorney-General—It was not the same offence. He was fined for not putting in the plans. The second summons was for not complying with the order to pull down the building.

The Chief Justice—The Magistrate had conceived two penalties for one offence—a fine or pulling down the building. I do not understand the Magistrate's action in imposing a fine.

The Attorney-General—I am not defending his action, but I say your Lordship could make the order to pull down the houses.

Mr. Slade replied. Judgment was reserved.

Tuesday, February 5th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

MAN SHUN WO v. B. I. S. N. CO.

Judgment was delivered by his Lordship in the action by the Man Shun Wo, merchants carrying on business at 227 Des Voeux Road West, against Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, the local agents of the British India Steam Navigation Company, for the recovery of \$1,863, said to have been lost on a certain shipment of birds' nests. Messrs. M. W. Slade and H. G. Calthrop (instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton of Messrs. Brutton and Hatt) represented the plaintiffs; and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., (instructed by Mr. G. Hastings, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings), appeared for defendants.

The Chief Justice said:—I may state the facts of this case as the plaintiff puts them very shortly. He or his agent shipped on board the defendants' vessel some cases of white birds' nests; he received some cases of peanuts. He therefore alleges that the defendant has not fulfilled his contract of carriage, as it is expressed in the bill of lading, and seeks to recover the value of his birds' nests. The case is manifestly of great public importance. On the bare statement of it, it much resembles the too common occurrence, to which all of us I suppose have been subject, of a case of wine shipped and on arrival being found to contain a certain number of bottles of water, the case being in fact delivered as shipped in "good order and condition," showing no external marks of damage. This case however presents this peculiar feature, that the cases when landed did show external signs of not being in good order and condition; the claim is however not for damaged goods, but for non-delivery of goods as shipped, and the question is how far this affects the onus of proof, as it results from the two conditions contained in the bill of lading, "shipped in good order and condition," and "weight, contents and value unknown." The point thus raised does not seem to have been expressly decided.

The shipowners relied in the first place on another condition of the bill of lading. "This Company is not to be responsible for damage, evaporation, etc. leakage or breakage, or other consequence arising from errors, omissions, absence of marks, or from the insufficiency of the address or packing, internal or external, or for the condition or contents of re-shipped or re-exported goods."

It is necessary to go a little further into the history of the case in order to decide the question thus raised.

The plaintiffs had ordered six cases of birds' nests from a firm in Batavia. They were shipped by the s.s. *Van Rebeck*, not on a through bill of lading to the plaintiffs in Hongkong, but on a bill of lading to the Ban Ann Hoh, a firm in Singapore who forwarded them to the plaintiffs by another steamer on a separate bill of lading. There seems to have been some commercial relationship between the three firms, but what it was I do not stop to enquire, for in the view I take of the condition of the bill of lading specially applicable to these circumstances, it is immaterial whether the three firms were one firm or entirely independent.

I have now to see what this exception in the bill of lading really means. In the first place its grammatical construction does not warrant the linking of the word "damage" with the last sentence which refers to re-shipped or re-exported goods; and I am therefore unable to adopt the suggested construction that the exception protects the shipping company only from damage resulting from the fact of re-shipment or re-exportation. If damage results from this it seems to me probable, though I express no opinion on the point, that the liability would have to be determined by other principles. I am of opinion that under this clause of the bill of lading the shipowner claims a complete exemption in the case of re-shipment or exportation, and that it must be read thus:—"The Company is not to be responsible for the condition or contents of re-shipped or

re-exported goods." If the words of this exception are properly understood, the reason for its introduction is apparent; whether the onus of proof be on the ship or the shipper, the practical difficulties in the way of proving where damage was actually caused, whatever that damage may be, when the goods have been in different ships, not necessarily belonging to the same Company, is obviously so great that the shipowner receiving re-shipped or re-exported goods declines to accept any responsibility whatever. It is not to be wondered at that the clause should be inserted in the bill of lading of a Company such as the "British India," whose business often compels them to deal with re-shipped cargo. But then I have to decide what is the meaning of the terms used in the exception, and whether the goods in question in this action come within those terms. I think the meaning of terms used in such a document as a bill of lading can be arrived at only by understanding the object with which they are used, the circumstances to which they are intended to apply. These words must be used either in their ordinary sense, or in a sense restricted by the conditions of the business with regard to which they are used. Now it is not necessary to invent an extreme case, such as was suggested in argument, of cases of wine received, opened, and afterwards repacked and "re-shipped" to another place, to show that the word is not intended to be used in its ordinary sense; because there is a case familiar under some Customs Laws which is sufficient for the purpose. Goods are sent on approval, taken delivery of, the cases are opened, the contents are found not to be up to sample; and for this, or for some other reason, they are re-packed, the cases fastened down again, and re-shipped. How would it be possible for the shippers to claim the exception in such a case? In some places indeed drawback or customs duties is allowed when goods are re-shipped in the original packages within a certain period from the date of the importation.

It seems to me clear that when an exception is introduced which depends on a pre-existent fact, the parties can never be *ad idem* unless they are agreed as to the existence of the fact, and enter into the contract subject to it. But the extreme case suggested at the trial is useful as showing to what lengths the exception might be pushed if I were to accept the defendants' contention on their point. I should have to reject an interpretation of these terms which is I believe consistent with the custom of shipping, which is reasonable, which meets entirely the special risks which the shipowners, as I believe, desire to avoid; which moreover cannot be misunderstood, and which therefore supposes the parties to be *ad idem* when the contract for carriage is entered into. Re-exporting in the bill of lading has, I think, a definite meaning; it refers to goods which have been entered at, but have not passed the customs, have not paid duty, but remain on the customs premises, either wharf or warehouse till they are re-exported.

Transshipment has also a definite meaning; it refers to goods put from one ship on to another in the course of a voyage, generally at an intermediate port. This term is however not used in this document, but "re-shipment," and it was contended that it must have a wider meaning than "re-exporting," for otherwise it would be practically identical with it. I think, however, that it is used to cover cases where, as in Hongkong, there is technically speaking no re-export, as there are no customs premises. But the same idea is intended; delivery of the goods is not taken, but they are put on or into Godown Company's wharfs, lighters, or warehouses, pending their being loaded on to another vessel. A through bill of lading is of course the commonest case in which there is re-export or re-shipment in this limited sense. But I do not think that such a bill of lading is essential to bring the case within the exception; nor even that there need be a continuous voyage; for there is a well known course of business where goods are consigned to a firm at one port, and by them consigned to another firm at another port; and this without taking anything more than technical delivery. Where there are import duties it is obvious that such goods will not be passed through the customs except by special arrangement. In such circumstances

the term "re-export" has a very definite meaning; and so also, the customs being non-existent, has "re-shipment." It is of course impossible to give an exhaustive list of all the cases which would come within the definition which I have attempted to give; I can only say broadly that any circumstances which are analogous to the illustrations I have given would come within it. On the other hand it is easy to say what falls outside of it. Where actual delivery has been taken then the continuity of the voyage has been broken, and there would be a fresh contract entered into with the new ship on which the goods are placed. The shipowner may, if the circumstances seem to him to justify it, insist on making the re-shipment exception part of the contract, and the shipper may accept or reject it as he pleases. But this new contract differs essentially from the one referred to in one of the illustrations just given, because there the fact that the goods are re-shipped cargo is known to both parties, and the new contract is entered into on that footing. Much stress in dealing with this point was laid on the fact that although the voyage qua shipboard was not continuous, yet that qua consignment it was; for the goods were ordered to be sent from Batavia to Hongkong, and were in fact so sent. Only the voyage was broken, and an intermediate delivery taken at Singapore. So far as the facts are concerned it is clear that the goods were taken from the *Van Rebeck* to the godowns of Ban Ann Hoh; beyond this it is not necessary to go. It might possibly be that the right of stoppage in transit was not destroyed by this taking delivery. But although that doctrine bears to a certain extent some analogy to the construction I have put upon this exception, the two things rest on an entirely different basis; and I am of opinion that this is not a case in which the shipowners can rely on the exception. Another condition of the bill of lading was also relied on by the defendant company, but as in the circumstances of the case it was abandoned, it is only necessary briefly to refer to it. The clause runs thus:—"In all cases and under all circumstances, the liability of the Company shall absolutely cease when the goods are free of the ship's tackle, and thereupon the goods shall be at the risk for all purposes and in every respect of the shipper or consignee." I think this must refer to the case where delivery is taken by the consignee. It could hardly exempt the shipowner in cases where, although the cargo has been landed, his character of carrier has not been changed to that of warehouseman.

I now pass to the important clause of the bill of lading: "weight, contents and value, when shipped unknown." There is no doubt that Kelly, C.B., based his judgment in *Jessel v. Bath* (L.R. 2 Ex. 267) on the Bills of Lading Act (18 and 19 Vict. C. 111) because the action was brought by a bona fide assignee for value of the bill of lading, and the question was whether he came within the protection afforded by §. 3 of the Act. But in the judgment of Martin B. and Bramwell B. a construction was placed upon the words now under consideration and I think that the principle on which the exception has been explained and supported is now well understood in the sense explained by the learned Barons, though there seems still to be some doubt as to the scope of the words used. "The person signing the bill of lading, by signing for the amount with this qualification, 'weight, contents and value unknown,' merely means to say that the weight is represented to him to be so much, but that he has himself no knowledge of the matter." The principle was followed in *Libeau v. General Steam Navigation Co.* (L.R. S.C.P. 88). It applies to the contents and to their value, as well as to their weight; and in all three cases the fact that the shipper has inserted in the margin a statement which is always treated as being no more than his views on these matters makes no difference. It could not be otherwise; for it is a mere question of contract. The shipowner declines to enter into the contract except on the understanding which these words of exception are intended to convey that he does not agree knowing nothing about it, that the weight, value, or contents of the cases shipped are what the shipper says they are; and the shipper ships on that understanding. This is not an absolute exception,

implying that the shipowner will never be responsible for goods abstracted or damaged during the voyage; he cannot get rid of his liability if any thing has happened on board because he has contracted to carry and deliver it he is liable. But he says I decline to admit that the something I am carrying is what you say it is; if it is as you say, and you seek to make me responsible for damage or loss, you must prove it. In other words the onus of providing what the something carried was in fact, lies on the shipper. "Onus of proof" is often a difficult term to settle the meaning of exactly; but as to the relation of admissions or non-admissions in bill of lading to the onus of proving the contrary, there can be no doubt from the judgment of James, L.J., in the *Peter der Grosse* (8 Asp. M.L.C. at p. 197) that the law is as I have stated it. I now come to the dicta of some of the Law Lords in *McLean v. Fleming* (L.R. 2 S.C. 128) which, it is said, throw some doubt upon the principle.

Lord Chelmsford said that the master "has no authority to sign bill of lading for a greater quantity of goods than is actually put on board, yet, as it is not to be presumed that he has exceeded his duty, his signature to the bill of lading is sufficient evidence of the truth of their contents to throw upon the shipowner the onus of falsifying them, and proving that he received a less quantity of goods to carry than is thus acknowledged by his agent. But it being admitted that it lay upon the shipowners to rebut the prima facie evidence arising from the bill of lading, he appears to me to have satisfactorily done so." Lord Colonsay is reported to have said the same thing. Were it not for the reporter's note that not only were the words "weight, quality, and contents unknown" in the bill of lading, but also that the master had protested from inadequacy of freight, these dicta would give no trouble. For so far as the report of the judgments go, these words were not referred to, and the opinions above quoted would have been no more than a statement of the law as to the effect of bill of lading not containing them. The action was on a charterparty in respect of "dead freight," and the question of the effect of the bill of lading was obviously material. But assuming these opinions to be the law even with these words in the bill of lading, I think I am justified in construing them strictly, and as having reference only to quantity, or weight; and it may be that the possibility of the master being able to verify the shipper's statement in this respect may lie at the root of the matter. Baron Martin in *Jessel v. Bath* laid stress on the fact that the master could not by any possibility weigh the goods as they were shipped; but he referred in special detail to the coasting trade in the Mediterranean, where "it is obviously that goods must be shipped on board hastily." If it were necessary to this case to pursue this enquiry further, I believe that a very distinct principle would be found underlying the cases in which there has been a short delivery of cargo. It is not difficult to understand that a not very subtle distinction might be drawn between "weight" and "quantity," which would recognize what actually takes place when goods are shipped on board a vessel. It would be impossible to suppose that a master should sign for 1,000 bales of cotton, and when a smaller number is delivered, that the shipowner should shelter himself behind a clause "quantity unknown" (if this is ever used) and so shift the onus on to the shipper to prove that 1,000 bales were in fact shipped. And really that is as far as assumption goes in *McLean v. Fleming*. There were 210 tons short of the cargo stipulated for: how could the stipulation "weight unknown" shift the onus? there was really a question of "quantity" not "weight"; and I see nothing in the decision at all in conflict with *Jessel v. Bath*, and certainly it cannot affect the proposition in so far as quality or contents are concerned, which it is manifest that the master cannot verify. So far therefore I am of opinion that the onus lies on the plaintiff to show that the cases did in fact contain birds' nests. But there is yet another point of law to be considered. The cases were not landed in good order and condition. The master had signed the bill of lading to the effect that they were so taken on board. If

the action had been brought for damaged peanuts, which is the converse of *Libeau v. General Steam Navigation Co.*, a variety of other considerations would arise, which I have not now to deal with. But the plaintiff's contention is quite different. He says that there was external damage to the cases; and he suggests that there is quite enough *prima facie* evidence to show a proper correlation between the damage to the cases and the abstraction of their contents, which must be a constant factor in all questions of this sort; and he contends that this shifts the onus on to the defendants to prove that birds' nests were not shipped as he alleges. So far as the conditions of the bill of lading are concerned, the last one is that "the delivery by the Company of packages externally in good condition as received shall be conclusive evidence of delivery of full weight and contents." As these cases were not delivered in as good condition as received, the Company cannot rely on this clause. Now, the case on which the plaintiff mainly relied was the *Peter der Grosse*. The principle there laid down was however merely this, that the condition "weight, contents and value unknown" did not override the admission that the goods were shipped in good order and condition; so as to shift the onus from the shipowner "of proving that the damage did not arise whilst the goods were on board the ship or in his custody, or that it comes within the exceptions of the bill of lading." But this does not carry the plaintiff far on the way towards his goal, which is to get rid of the onus of proving his affirmative that the cases contained birds' nests, when the shipowner has expressly declined to admit that the cases contained these delectable commodities. We get now into a different order of ideas. It is obviously an essential to the plaintiff's action to prove a due correlation between the injury and the dunnage, between the external damage to the cases and the abstraction of their contents. The onus of proving this must be on him, because his action depends on it. But supposing this to be proved, why should it shift the onus of proof as to the nature of the contents? The onus lies normally on the party who asserts; in the cases we are dealing with it is shifted because the other party has made an admission; if he contends that the admission does not bind him it must be because he has admitted something to be a fact which he alleges not to be a fact. Therefore he in his turn has become the party who asserts, and the onus is on him to prove his assertion. In the *Peter der Grosse* the onus was held to be on the shipowner because he had admitted that the goods were shipped in good order and condition, and they were landed in bad order and condition. The refusal to admit the quality of the goods shipped did not help him because the nature of the goods was not in dispute. But in this case the nature of the goods is in dispute, and there is no reason why the shipowner should be deprived of the benefit which results from his refusal to admit what they were; the fact that there has been external damage to the cases has nothing to do with the onus of proving what the contents were, and cannot shift the onus from the plaintiff. The argument confuses the factor essential to the plaintiff's action with the onus of proof of another matter. The utmost that might be said for the plaintiff is that he has proved that abstraction could have followed the damage done to the cases; but as to what was abstracted the parties by their contract have agreed that in the event of dispute the shipper would have to prove what the contents really were. If the cases had arrived empty, it would have made no difference.

Applying these principles to the facts, I must say in the first place that I find it difficult, even in the face of the evidence of Mr. Lammert, to believe that the abstraction of birds' nests and substitution of peanuts could have taken place through any aperture in the cases, such as he thought might have been made by prizing, keeping in view the damage observed to the gunnies outside the cases; and I do not think that the plaintiff has satisfied the onus of proving the necessary correlation between the damage and the possibility of abstraction. But, secondly, I do not think he has satisfied the onus of proving that the contents of the cases when

shipped at Singapore were birds' nests. It was strongly pressed upon me that there was a charge of fraud involved, and that it must be proved to the full. I do not think that it is essential to the determination of this case to find fraud. What is essential is that the plaintiff must satisfy me that the cases contained birds' nests when shipped on board the *Putiala* at Singapore. This he has failed to do. There are many points in the evidence which are exceedingly unsatisfactory. What were the cases doing for six days in the *Ban Ann Hoh* godown? I do not understand the evidence of the plaintiff's foki who saw peanuts dropping from the cases before they were surveyed on arrival in Hongkong. These and other questions require to be satisfactorily answered before I could find in the plaintiff's favour. Everything tends to show that the cases were carefully filled with peanuts in Singapore, by whom it is not necessary for me to enquire. Judgment must therefore be for the defendants with costs.

DISASTROUS FIRE.

SIX CHINESE BURNED TO DEATH.

Another of those appalling fires which occasionally startle residents of Hongkong broke out at No. 3 Tung Loi Lane, in the vicinity of the old harbour office, at about ten minutes past five a.m. on February 2nd. Tung Loi Lane is a notorious place for fires and is generally so full of debris as to impede the operations of the firemen when they appear on the scene. It is a further remarkable fact that nearly always before Chinese New Year a fire occurs in this lane.

When the alarm regarding the present outbreak was given the brigade turned out with their usual promptness, and in charge of Chief Inspector Baker hastened to the scene of the fire. On arrival they found the outbreak to be in a wood shop on the ground floor the first floor of the same premises being a matting shop, while the second was used for sleeping purposes. It was also evident that the fire had been burning for a considerable time, as the whole building was a mass of flame which burst from windows and doors from the ground to the top floor. Apparently the fire originated on the ground floor of the shop, and being fed with a very inflammable material, spread very rapidly, while dense volumes of smoke ascended to the first and second floors and this must have completely suffocated the sleepers in the upper part of the house, of whom there were twelve. The charred remains of six were found in a cockloft on the top floor.

When the firefighters appeared on the scene they found shop No. 3 to be completely beyond their control, so turned their attention to saving the adjoining premises and so successful were the prompt measures taken that very little damage was done to the surrounding houses. The wood and matting shops were completely gutted, and part of the first floor fell in. It was some two hours after the outbreak, however, before the heat died down sufficiently to enable the firemen to mount to the top floor, and it was then that the ghastly find was made of six charred bodies believed to be those of four men, a woman and a child. Five other Chinese were also found on the roof of the house in a badly burnt condition, and were promptly removed to hospital, while the corpses were transferred to the public mortuary.

The five rescued Chinese were pulled on to the roof of the burning building by a shop coolie named Fong Ting who resided with them on the top floor. He was awakened by the crackling of wood and found the room enveloped in flame, but with a praiseworthy presence of mind and a cool courage he set to work to rescue his fellow lodgers, and through his valiant efforts he was successful in pulling five compatriots out of the inferno, and although badly burned, they are in no danger. Fong himself escaped with severely burned hands, but did not think his injuries sufficiently bad to go to hospital.

The first floor of the building, the mat shop, was said to be well stocked, and was insured in the Chan On Insurance Co. for \$2,000. No particulars, however, are available regarding

the firewood shop on the ground floor, as the efforts of the police to trace masters and foks have been unsuccessful. A fact which points to the fire being an accident, however, is the statement of an Indian watchman who was on duty in the lane at the time. According to his story the residents of the ground floor must have awakened just in time to escape, for as he was looking down the lane he observed about six men burst open the door and rush out of the house. He immediately approached to learn the cause of the trouble, and through the open door noticed that the whole room was apparently in flames.

OTHER FIRES.

After a brief spell from Saturday's exertions the Fire Brigade were again called out between 9 and 10 o'clock yesterday morning to quell an outbreak of fire which occurred in the No. 2 hold of the s.s. *Monmouth-hire*, lying in the dangerous goods anchorage near Stonecutters. There was a cargo of fresh manure and ground nuts in the hold in question, and spontaneous combustion is believed to have been the cause of the outbreak. When the warning was given the water police were quickly on the scene, likewise the Naval yard fire float, while the brigade under Chief Inspector Baker were hurried there on launches. The fire was then got under and the cargo turned over and transferred to lighters. The damage done was unknown last night, but it is not considered to be very great.

At Yau-moti on Friday night a number of matchsheds used in connection with the Kowloon-Canton railway took fire and were burnt down before any attempt could be made to put them out.

THE INSURANCE CONSPIRACY.

ACCUSED CONVICTED.

At the Police Court on February 3rd, before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, the case in which The China Mutual Life Insurance Company, Limited, charged Wong Sin, Ma Chik-sang, Ching Shing and Leung Wong-shi with conspiracy to defraud them of the sum of \$2,000 upon an Insurance Policy on the life of one Lenng Yin-cho was concluded.

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow), who has been prosecuting on behalf of the Company, intimated to the Magistrate that his clients were willing that His Worship should decide the case summarily instead of committing it for trial. His Worship had power to do this under the Magistrates' Ordinance, and if he would inflict the maximum penalty within his power, viz: 6 months' imprisonment with hard labour, and possibly in the case of the men, some hours in the stocks, and recommend them for banishment, the Company would be perfectly satisfied.

His Worship expressed his willingness to accede to this, except so far as the stocks were concerned, and found the defendants guilty and sentenced the first, second, and third defendants to six months' imprisonment with hard labour and the fourth defendant to four months' imprisonment. He also recommended them for banishment.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

Our Sandakan correspondent writes: The expedition, to survey the new railway from Kudat to Sandakan, left Kudat about the middle of January. The journey is expected to be covered in about three months, and the distance is estimated to be about 120 miles.

The extension of the wharf here has been put in hand.

The Governor and his wife are leaving here for Hongkong shortly, and proceed on March 14th, by the *Empress of Japan*, for England via Canada.

Tawao Coal is now being stocked here; the Coal Co. has its own wharf, close to the Government wharf, and has something like 250 tons here at the moment; as soon as the N. E. monsoon breaks there will be steady and ample supplies here all the time.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

SCHOOL SPEECH DAY.

The large hall at Queen's College was well filled on February 4th when H.E. the Governor attended to present the prizes won by pupils during the year. His Excellency was seated on the platform at the head of the hall, and was supported by Dr. Bateson Wright, the principal of the College, Mr. R. A. B. Ponsonby, his private secretary, and Mrs. Ponsonby, Captain Coleman, A.D.C., Mr. E. A. Irving, Inspector of Schools, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Rev. T. Pearce, Lieut. Gott, Army Schoolmaster, and Mrs. Gott. Among the large attendance of foreigners in the body of the hall were the Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Woodcock, Mrs. Lammer, Bro. Sylvester, Director of St. Joseph's College, Mr. G. Piercy, head of the Diocesan School, Mr. F. Brown, Dr. and Mrs. Kew, Rev. E. J. Barnett, principal of St. Stephen's College, Rev. J. P. France, Mr. W. D. Braidwood, head of the Ellis Kadoorie School, Mrs. Braidwood and Mr. W. H. Williams, H.E. Wu Ting-fang and Mr. Lau Chi-pak were also present.

Dr. G. H. Bateson Wright opened the proceedings by reading his annual report, extracts from which are as under:—

The annual statistics having assumed a somewhat stereotyped character call for no special remark. The total number on roll for the year was 1,418, the average daily attendance 1,005. The regular attendance of scholars continues to be a very satisfactory feature. The total gross expense of the college including a special vote of \$900 (Financial Minute No 46) language allowance to Mr. R. O. Bird was only \$56,132 as against \$60,555 in 1905. This decrease is chiefly due to the low rate of exchange taken in the estimates as opposed to the actual high quotation of the Mexican dollar in the market; the balance may be attributed to reductions in salaries caused by new appointments at initial salaries. One tenth of the amount provided in the estimates for Queen's College lapsed. The share of the public in the cost of Queen's College for the year 1906 was 44 per cent, 56 per cent being defrayed by fees and refunds. The cost of each boy to the public revenue was \$24.48 or \$4.21 less than in the previous year. By the retirement on pension of Mr. A. J. May, I.S.O., the college lost the services of a most energetic and capable Second Master, whose connection with the College extended over 27 years, 18 of which were spent in his late important post. He acted as Headmaster for two periods of 1½ year each. For a couple of years he was Principal of the Normal School at Wansai and his pronounced ability in this direction was utilised in this college whenever his services could be spared from the Upper Sections. The appreciation of his long and meritorious term of office found general expression from the highest to the lowest. His Majesty the King was pleased to confer upon him the Imperial Service Order. His Excellency the Governor at the prize distribution a year ago in most eloquent terms eulogised his services to the Colonial Government. The English and Chinese masters and boys, past and present to the most recent admission, vied with one another to do him honour. The death of Mr. Tsang Chung after 19½ years' service in this college as pupil teacher, and the last 5½ years as 2nd Chinese Assistant after various steps of promotion, deprived the college of a very faithful and competent master. By conscientious study he had attained a high reputation as instructor in translations from and into Chinese. Queen's College candidates cannot be congratulated on their success at the Oxford Local Examination held last July. Only 12 certificates were obtained as against 22 in the previous year. The percentages of passes were Seniors 15; Juniors 33; Preliminary 44. The mark Good next to Distinction was awarded only eleven times, Senior 1 in Arithmetic, 2 in Scripture, 1 in Shakespeare. Junior none. Preliminary 5 in Arithmetic, 2 in History. The results of the annual examination for prizes and promotions held by me under

standing orders from the Governing Body are as follows:—

Upper School	218 boys examined	180 or 87	passed
Lower School	611	545	91
Preparatory School	142	117	75
Total	961	811	81

Though not equal to the high standard attained last year, the work exhibited in the examination throughout the college is highly satisfactory, and may be rated at a good average. The English subjects, Composition, Geography, History, Dictation, Reading, Conversation with Translation from and into Chinese maintain a high level of excellence. There was a perceptible improvement in Arithmetic, though much weakness in method and too many instances of gross carelessness were still in evidence. English Grammar was weaker even than usual: the total ignorance of Analysis (a subject so necessary for self-criticism in Composition) in the two top classes was appalling. The percentages in Hygiene were not so high as last year; this may be attributed to the greater severity of the questions, and to a tendency on the part of many boys to give answers illuminated by the light of nature instead of based upon principles of science. Mensuration was very good in Class I, but bad in Class II. The General Intelligence paper was better than last year. Through the munificence of the brothers Ho, old boys of this college, five new scholarships have been founded. Class I Wright Scholarship, Class II Ho Tung, Class III, Ho Fook. These are of the value of \$100 each and tenable for one year. They were presented by Messrs. Ho Tung and Ho Fook, the scholarship in the first class being at their kind suggestion called after the present headmaster on the completion of twenty five years' service. The subjects are Hygiene, Geography and Translations from and into Chinese. Class II, Ho Kom-tung Scholarship; Class IV Alfred May. These are of the value of \$60 each and are the gift of Mr. Ho Kom-tung, at whose request the scholarship in Class IV was called after our late Second Master, Mr. May, recently retired on pension. These scholarships are awarded to the winner of the highest aggregates in the chief English subjects with translations. The donors have skillfully avoided collision with existing scholarships. The following list of successful scholars may be of interest in connection with the preceding paragraph.

I.A. Senior Morrison	57.3 years	Cheung Ting-shang
Senior Bellios	50.1 A.	Arculi
Stewart	100.1	Cheung Lun-shang
Blake	100.1	Ng Cheung-hau
Wright	100.1	Ko Pak-ming
II.A. Ho Tung	100.1	Tso Chak-min
Ho Kom-tung	60.1	Wong Ping-chiu
III.A. Junior Bellios	25.2	Tsu Chun-fong
Ho Fook	100.1	Shin Chung-shang
IV.A. Junior Morrison	40.1	year Tai Tung-pui
Alfred May	60.1	year Hung Kwok-chi.

In the past year, 18 boys obtained employment under the Hongkong Government, 41 under the Chinese Imperial Government 33 in professional and mercantile offices, 50 in situations abroad. These 147 boys nearly all came from the upper school and this heavy demand accounts for the reduction in the number of candidates for the annual examination.

The Headmaster then said: I should like, Sir, to supplement my report with a few remarks upon the successes of boys from the Government District Schools. Twenty-four years ago when free scholarships were first inaugurated, it was of frequent occurrence for these boys to win scholarships and take high places in their respective classes. After an interval of fifteen years I am pleased to say that they have again come to the front. Shin Chung-shang from Wansai obtained the Ho Fook Scholarship in III. A. Lau King-chang (Saiyingpun) was second boy in II. A. The 2nd, 3rd and 5th boys in III. C and the 3rd and 5th in IV. C were from the District Schools. All these were admitted a year ago, and deserve congratulations on their successes. I must now ask Your Excellency's permission to convey to you the respectful congratulations of the masters and boys of this college on your recovery from the effects of the serious accident that befell you three months ago. Your inability, Sir, to hold your annual kindly inspection of this college in December was a great disappointment; but we are glad that the late date of Chinese New Year enables us to

have the honour and pleasure of welcoming your presence here at our prize distribution to-day.

His Excellency then distributed the prizes, after which he asked Dr. Bateson Wright for the name of the boy who had made most progress in the study of mathematics during the year. Cheung Ting-shang was introduced, and the Governor presented him with a handsome prize.

His Excellency then said: Dr. Bateson Wright, I thank you cordially for your kind reference to, and congratulations to myself. Ladies and gentlemen: I am sure you will wish me to thank Dr. Bateson Wright on your behalf for the very lucid, complete and business-like statement which he made to us on the subject of the past school year. In the commencement of that statement Dr. Bateson Wright referred to the yearly stereotyped remarks on the subject of the average attendance. This attendance has remained for the last three years at a little over 1,000; it cannot increase because 1,000 represents the accommodation provided in these buildings, and it is not considered advisable to increase that accommodation because 1,000 is about the largest number of boys that can be satisfactorily administered by one headmaster. Therefore any advance that is to be made in this school must be, not in the direction of increased numbers, but in that of a higher standard of education. With this in view I suggested sometime ago that the preparatory school should be abolished, and the accommodation so rendered vacant occupied by additional divisions of the lower school, and this change is in course of being carried into effect. I may as well explain to you that the college consisted of eight classes of which Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were the upper school, 4, 5 and 6 the lower school, and 7 and 8 the preparatory school. The eighth class was done away with last year, and the seventh class and with it the remainder of the preparatory school disappears this year, additional sections being provided in the fourth, fifth and sixth classes. The other schools will in future have to prepare scholars for Queen's College, and this duty will specially fall on the Government District Schools. I have been glad to learn from Dr. Wright's supplementary remarks that the Government District Schools at Wansai, Saiyingpun and Yaumati are recognising their responsibility in this matter. It is a little desponding, when we are attempting to raise the general standard at Queen's College, to hear that this past year has not on the whole been a very successful one. Boys from this College only gained twelve certificates at the Oxford Local Examination, as compared with 22 in the previous year, and in this respect come even behind the school I visited the day before yesterday, where the same number of certificates was obtained although there are far fewer pupils. In Hygiene also, I am sorry to say that Queen's College—which won the shield for the elementary course last year and one of the prizes for the advanced course—has this year won neither the shield nor a prize; and again, the headmaster reports that at the examination he conducted at the end of the term in all subjects, the results on the average were not so good as last year. On the other hand I am pleased to see a more favourable report sent in both by the headmaster and by the independent examiners who visited the school about the middle of the school year, on the subject of Chinese instruction. That is undoubtedly greatly improving in this Colony, and the advantage of it is felt when appointments offered by the Chinese Government are available to be filled by boys from Hongkong. I notice that 41 appointments under the Chinese Government were obtained by boys from Queen's College last year, and that altogether 147 obtained appointments under the Hongkong and Chinese Governments and in Hongkong firms. I understand that this 147 boys came from the upper school, and no doubt this tends to diminish the number who could attend the scholastic classes. I hope this large number of boys did not leave school before their school course was completed, because I consider it most undesirable that in order to obtain an immediate appointment a boy should sacrifice the end and most important part of his school career. The school course should

begin as early as possible, and should be carried on till a boy has thoroughly mastered all he can be taught in the school. After that there is available now for him the extension classes I foreshadowed last year. I understand Dr. Wright does not approve of boys who are at work all day in the school attending the extension classes in the evening, and I think he is perfectly right, as in the school course there is sufficient work. But I am sure he will join with me in urging any boys who have completed their school course and remain in Hongkong to join the extension classes, which will fit them for any business they are proposing to enter. It only remains for me to express the wish that the year which will elapse before I again present the prizes to this college will prove a more successful one, and that the students of the college will obtain at least 24 certificates at the Oxford Local Examinations, and will obtain again the shield for hygiene in the elementary course, and prizes for hygiene in the advanced course; and that both the independent examiners and the headmaster may be able to give me when I appear again here next year the most favourable report ever presented to a Governor of the Colony on this institution (applause).

Dr. Bateson Wright briefly thanked his Excellency for his kind remarks and trusted that his kind prophecy of the prospects of the future might be fulfilled. He would be sorry if his Excellency went away under the impression that hygiene was not well taught in the school; the high marks showed that the masters taught it very well, and no doubt renewed interest and more care would be taken in the subject in the following year.

His Excellency—The headmaster tells me that the month's vacation commences from to-day. I hope you will all enjoy it thoroughly (applause).

The function concluded with cheers for the King, the Governor, the visitors and the headmaster.

ELLIS KADOORIE CANTON COLLEGE.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES.

The annual distribution of prizes at the Ellis Kadoorie Canton College took place at Honam on February 2nd. There is nothing like the spirit of emulation to prompt study, and it is a pity that Chinese government schools do not follow in this respect the example set them by the West. No such function ends the Chinese school term. That the distribution of prizes is appreciated by the Chinese was shown by this attentive and applauding audience. Amongst those present were Dr. and Mrs. Nicolson, Mr. and Mrs. Doty, Messrs. Ellis Kadoorie (President of the College), Lau Chu Pak (Honorary Secretary of the College), A. Hamalton, W. C. Barlow, G. Moss, Ho Yu Hing, Liao Tsze Shan (Committee), and ten Chinese gentlemen.

Mr. James Moore, headmaster, read the annual report, in which the following passages occurred:—

The highest number on the roll this year was 393 and the largest attendance has been 364. The average number on the roll during the last six months has been 369 and the average daily attendance has been 325. A considerable number is admitted to the lower classes but a large portion leaves in a short time without any warning. It is in this division that our greatest wastage takes place; it is no fault of the teaching but is due rather to the disappointment which they evidently experience from not learning English at once. It is a matter for considerable regret that so many students absent themselves so often, frequently on the flimsiest excuses.

In the final examination, 131 students passed first class, 148 passed second, eight failed, and 67 were absent.

Next year we shall endeavour to form the beginning of a school library. We hope also to be able to commence a Debating Association so as to afford more facilities for the practice of English conversation (applause). We also intend to pay more attention to sports, but in this as in many other things we are handicapped by our surroundings.

Mr. Ellis Kadoorie presented the prizes and made a few appropriate remarks.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak's annual address included his usual dose of good advice to the boys.

It is in a certain sense quite true, he said, that the teaching of English forms the principal feature of the curriculum of this school, but it must be borne in mind that it has never been nor is it the wish of the founders of the school that the boys who come here to learn should confine their attention solely to English. On the contrary, they wish them to be well conversant in the Chinese language and literature before becoming proficient in English; for, after all, they are Chinese boys, and it is only proper that they should first be able to speak and write their mother tongue well. What I am telling you has been borne out by experience. You may become a very proficient scholar in English; but, without an equally proficient knowledge of your own language, you will never be of such use to yourselves and your own country as you ought to be, if you are proficient in both. As the rails of the permanent way must be on the same level and of the same length as each other, so should your studies of Chinese and English advance hand in hand. I have seen men who have come back from foreign countries well educated in foreign ways and languages and these men you may think must be of great use to their country. But they find it to their sad experience that they are just the reverse; for, without a good knowledge of the language and conditions of their own country, they feel hampered in every way and in short they are not very much better off than foreigners in dealing with their countrymen. The reason is not far to seek. Not knowing Chinese efficiently, they cannot elucidate their new ideas sufficiently for their own people to understand and consequently they lose touch with them. When I was your age, my foremost thought was to acquire a good knowledge of English and I paid very little attention to Chinese. Soon after I left school I had to repent bitterly of my former shortsightedness as without an equally competent knowledge of Chinese I was handicapped in many things and had to spend much valuable time which would otherwise have been saved for other useful work in studying Chinese again. It was for this reason that sometime ago, I thought of modifying the time table of this school so as to allow more time for the teaching of Chinese. But your headmaster represented to me that there was no immediate necessity for doing so, as you were all studying Chinese after school hours under private tutors, and it was at his request that I have put the question off for future consideration. It is well that you should bear in mind what I have said for what has been my experience will, no doubt, be your experience bye and bye. There is another point I should like you to bear in mind and that is you are Chinese boys and no matter how you are dressed and what you will learn you cannot get beyond the fact that you are Chinese.

Wong Mau Kit won the Ho Kam Tong scholarship of \$40 and Tsui Yen I the Dux prize.

ANOTHER DOCK ACHIEVEMENT.

TWO MORE RIVER STEAMERS LAUNCHED.

Another successfully accomplished task was brought to an end at the Kowloon Docks on February 5th when the two remaining steamers built for Messrs. Roque and Co. were launched.

Those present at the function were M. Roque, M. Le Jeune, vice-consul for France, Mr. J. Lambert (Lloyd's surveyor) and Mrs. and Miss Lambert, Captain Major, Messrs. J. W. Graham, acting manager of the Kowloon Docks, W. C. Jack, W. Parlance, E. C. Wilks, Polliser, Hume, Chopard, T. Neave, C. D. Silas, J. Martin and F. Simmonds; Mesdames Wilks, Belson, Raymond, Richardson, Puddappa, Milroy, Jack, Murphy, Morris, and the Misses Slaker, Jack and Morris.

The steamers were the *Rubis* and the *Saphir*. They were built to the design of Messrs. Wilks and Jack, who superintended their construction on behalf of Messrs. Roque. They are of the same design as the *Perle* and are intended for the Tonkin River subsidised Mail Service.

The first to take the water was the *Rubis*. At a given signal the chocks were removed, and as the vessel slid slowly towards the sea Miss Jack christened her with champagne, the Chinese employees following with a fusillade of crackers for "good jobs." The same ceremony attended the launching of the *Saphir*. Mrs. Belson in this instance performing the christening. Both vessels took the water like a duck, and as they slid off the slips, cheers were raised by all in attendance.

The launching ceremony concluded, an adjournment was made to the manager's quarters where, after apologising for the absence of Mr. Wilson, Mr. Graham called on all present to charge their glasses and drink to the health of Miss Jack and Mrs. Belson, who had so kindly consented to christen the steamers. The day was really a red letter day in the history of the Dock Co., for it was the first occasion on which two steamers had been launched at the same time.

The health of the ladies in question having been honoured, Mr. Graham presented each with a handsome gold bracelet.

Mr. Roque then proposed success to the Dock Co., and in doing so thanked the ladies who had been so kind as to christen his ships. Everything turned out by the Kowloon Docks was turned out in first class order, and there was strength even in their champagne bottles (laughter).

Mr. Graham acknowledged the toast, remarking that the vessels just floated were of first class workmanship, and admirably suited for the trade in which they were to be employed. He wished the *Roque* Co., coupled with the name of Mr. Roque, every success.

Mr. Jack returned thanks on behalf of the ladies and

Mr. Lambert followed by proposing the health of Mr. Graham in his new capacity as acting manager of the Kowloon Docks. This was the first ceremony of the kind he had participated in in that capacity, but the speaker trusted it would not be the last, and wished him the best of good wishes.

Mr. Graham feelingly responded to all the kind words said about him, concluding his remarks by stating that it was a pleasure to him to have the help and friendship of such men as Mr. Lambert, Captain Innes, Captain Major and Mr. Ramsay.

Light refreshments were then served, and terminated another of the many successful functions which have of late marked the progress of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co.

WESLEYAN CHURCH BAZAAR.

A very successful bazaar and sale of work in connection with the Wesleyan Church, Hongkong, was held at the Sailors' and Soldiers' Home, Arsenal Street, on February 3rd, the proceeds of which were to be in aid of the Organ Fund. Mrs. F. H. May was announced to have performed the opening ceremony but illness prevented her from attending and Mr. Atkinson kindly undertook to fill her place and discharge the duty of the afternoon. There was a very large attendance at the opening and all the ladies and gentlemen present were charmed with the pretty appearance of the hall which had been very tastefully decorated under the supervision of Mr. A. Matthews of the *Tamar*, while the stalls on which were many useful and ornamental articles were effectively set out. The Rev. C. J. Hickling offered up prayer, after which the Rev. C. Bone expressed regret at the absence of Mrs. May and introduced Mrs. Atkinson who formally declared the bazaar open and wished the undertaking every success. Miss Dollie Mounce-Stephen presented her with a beautiful bouquet of roses, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Atkinson on the proposition of Lieutenant-Engineer Pearoe, seconded by Captain Brown, of the Wharf and Godown Company. The business of buying and selling was subsequently proceeded with. The stalls and stallholders were:

General stall, Mesdames Bone, Jackson, Palmer, Sanderson and Wilkinson. Curios stall, Mesdames Andrew and Thomas. Refreshment stall, Mesdames Brown, Jacobs and White. Cushion stall, Mesdames Davey and Makeham. Sweet and

Flower Stall, Misses Andrew, Bone, Jackson, Thomas and Winnie Mounce-Stephen, Museum and Art Gallery, Messrs. S. Boyd and E. Hearl, Shooting Gallery, Sergt. Major Stevenson, R.E., C.S.M., Vigar, R.E., and Sergt. Guthrie, R.M.L.I. Bran Tub, Pte. Eager, R.A.M.C. Galvanic battery, Mr. Matthews, R. N.

The Rev. C. Bone, chaplain, was chairman of committee, Mr. C. Makeham was vice-chairman and Mr. J. W. White was hon. secretary and treasurer.

An interesting programme was given during the course of the afternoon. There was a display of musical drill by the Sunday School scholars, half hour concerts, gymnastic displays, an attractive conjuring exhibition by Mr. Evans (the Fire King), and a hat trimming competition in which Staff Sergeant Strange took first place and Mr. Hearl second.

Over \$800 was realised.

COMPANIES.

KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The eighteenth annual meeting of shareholders in the Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited, was held on Feb 4th at the offices of the Company, Victoria Buildings. Mr. T. F. Hough presided and there were present:—Messrs. A. Rodger, W. H. Gaskell, A. Shelton Hooper, R. A. Dastur, M. S. Northcote and E. B. Shepherd.

The Secretary (Mr. A. Shelton Hooper) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—With your permission we will take the report and accounts as read. The balance of Profit and Loss Account for the year under review is slightly higher than that for 1905 which is accounted for by the smaller amount we have had to expend on repairs. The gross receipts show a decrease which has been brought about by the larger number of vacancies than formerly; this was naturally to be expected in view of the number of new houses erected at Kowloon, but your directors believe that the population of Kowloon will so increase as to make the demand for this class of house quite up to that of the last few years. The property is in good condition and has been recently done up. If any further information is desired I shall be pleased to give it to the best of my ability.

There being no questions the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. DASTUR seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. NORTHCOTE proposed the re-election of Messrs. Rodger and Gaskell to the Directorate. Mr. HOOPER seconded, and the motion was carried.

On the motion of Mr. DASTUR, seconded by Mr. NORTHCOTE, Mr. C. W. May was re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow. Thank you for your attendance.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.

The report of the board of directors to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders to be held at the office of the company on Tuesday, February 12th, at 12 o'clock noon, reads:

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the report and statement of accounts for the half year ending 31st December last.

After paying running expenses, salaries, premia of insurance, repairs, balance of \$15,000 special repair account brought forward from last half year and all other outgoings, there remains, including \$5,464.97 carried forward from last account, the sum of \$100,170.08 at credit of profit and loss account. From this amount the directors recommend that a dividend of one dollar per share, or \$80,000, be paid to shareholders, leaving a balance of \$20,170.08 to be carried forward to new account.

The disastrous typhoons of September caused the stranding of five steamers of the Company's fleet, with paralyzing effects to the service, which were further accentuated by the burning of the China Navigation Co., Ltd. steamer *Hankow*, on the 13th October.

The financial loss to the Company has been very heavy although 7 per cent of the book values of the vessels were covered by insurance. The cost of all repairs by typhoon damage and otherwise, including cost of salvage of the steamer *Heungshan* has been defrayed out of the earnings of the half year, except the cost of repairs to *Heungshan* which only being completed at end of January will be chargeable to the first half year of 1907.

Immediately following the 18th September there was a shortage of tonnage on the river, but since then the competition has been as brisk as ever, and Chinese freights have ruled very low.

The Pool Agreement with the China Navigation Co., Ltd., expired at the end of last year and, while renewing it your directors entered into an agreement with that company to dispose of our 2 1/2th share in the steamer *Fukshan* to them on the basis of a total valuation of £5,000 which came into effect on the 31st December. This sale leaves a small profit to us on book value as you will see in the accounts. It was also agreed that the China Navigation Co., Ltd., should purchase from us a 2 1/2th share in the *s.s. Pawan* in order that she may be jointly worked as a spare boat or freighter, and that she should be replaced in the pool working on the Canton Line by the Company's steamer *Heungshan*.

The Pool Agreement between the China Navigation Company and ourselves extending over a period of 10 years has now been signed and executed. The transfer of 2 1/2th share in the steamer *Pawan* has been made and will appear in the account of the first six months in 1907.

In order to replace the steamer *Heungshan* on the Macao line, and recognizing the necessity of two smaller and more economical vessels for the trade, your directors purchased from the Hamburg-Amerika Linie the two river steamers *Sai Au* and *Sai Tai*. They have been running on the line since the 12th instant, and are working very satisfactorily. These changes have been decided on after very careful consideration on the part of your Board and in the best interests of your Company.

The working of the West River Service continues to be unprofitable and your directors in agreement with the other joint owners decided to sell the stranded steamer *Tak Hing*. The loss on her book value of our 1/3rd share amounts to \$14,105.39 but we hope to recover the sum of \$2,466.66 for estimated cost of repairs and salvage from the underwriters.

Mr. E. R. Fuhrmann resigned his seat at the Board upon leaving the Colony, and Mr. Thier was nominated by the directors to fill the vacancy subject to confirmation by the shareholders at this meeting.

The retiring auditors, Messrs. A. O. D. Gourdin and W. Hutton Potts also offer themselves for re-election.

E. GOETZ,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 25th January, 1907.

Dec. 31, 1906.	ASSETS.	\$	c.
Value of steamers <i>Hongshan</i> , <i>Pawan</i> , <i>Heungshan</i> , <i>Sai Au</i> , <i>Sai Tai</i> , and <i>Longshan</i> , 2 1/2ths of <i>Kunshan</i> and 1/3rd of <i>Sichuan</i> , <i>Nanning</i> , <i>Lanton</i> , and <i>Sauai</i>		1,149,800.00	
Value of lighters <i>Sauai</i> and <i>Wahai</i>		80,000.00	
Value of wharves, buoys and moorings		71,250.00	
Value of properties at Canton, Wuchow and Kongkum		131,246.77	
Value of spare gear and stores		16,269.37	
Value of furniture		1,450.00	
Value of share in public companies		571,748.00	
Value of Chinese bonds		69,118.00	
Loans on mortgage		188,000.00	
Interest accrued		2,457.92	
Sundry debtors		56,222.61	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation current account		51,602.62	
		\$2,549,439.57	

Dec. 31, 1906.	LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Amount of capital, 80,000 shares of \$15 each fully paid up		1,200,000.00	
Amount at credit of depreciation and insurance fund		6,000.00	
Amount at credit of equalization of dividend fund		250,000.00	
Amount at credit of investment fluctuation account		111,224.63	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation loan account		25,000.00	
Unclaimed dividends		61,200.00	
Sundry creditors		28,226.16	
Amount at credit of profit and loss account		100,170.08	
		\$2,549,439.57	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		
Dec. 31, 1906.	Dr.	\$
To repairs to steamers special account brought forward from last account		15,000.00
To amount paid for repairs to steamers		4,445.97
To company's proportion of losses in connection with the stranding of <i>s.s. Fukshan</i> , <i>Kunshan</i> , <i>Heungshan</i> , <i>Longshan</i> , and raising and repairing lighter <i>Wahai</i>		18,491.29
To difference between book value and price realized for company's 1/3rd share of steamer <i>Tak Hing</i>		11,105.39
Less amount recoverable from underwriters		2,166.66
		11,638.73
To electric light installation steamer <i>Heungshan</i>		4,000.00
To directors and auditors' fees		4,250.00
To dividend of \$1 per share on 80,000 shares		800,000.00
To amount to be carried forward to new account		20,170.08
		100,170.08
Dec. 31, 1906.	Cr.	\$
By amount brought forward from last account		5,464.97
By net earnings of steamers		136,317.36
By interest on investments		3,223.43
By transfer fees		44.00
By difference between book value and price realized for company's 1/3rd share of steamer <i>Fukshan</i>		7,941.31
		188,990.07

DEPRECIATION AND INSURANCE FUND.		
Dec. 31, 1906.	Dr.	\$
To balance		600,000.00
June 30, 1906.	Cr.	\$
By balance		600,000.00
EQUALIZATION OF DIVIDEND FUND		
Dec. 31, 1906.	Dr.	\$
To balance		250,000.00
June 30, 1906.	Cr.	\$
By balance		250,000.00

SHANGHAI LAND INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report of the directors for presentation at the eighteenth annual meeting of the shareholders to be held on February 20th reads:—The directors have much pleasure in placing before the shareholders their eighteenth annual report which shows a satisfactory year's work.

The working account for 1906 has a credit balance of Tls. 346,617.53 as compared with Tls. 364,883.33 for the previous year.

The amount at the credit of profit and loss account, after deducting the interim dividend of 6 paid in July last, is Tls. 319,755.34, which the directors recommend for appropriation as follows:—

Final dividend 6 (making 12 for the year) on fully paid shares ...	156,000.00
Dividend on new shares (3 months at 12 per annum), 25,295 shares at Tls. 0.75	18,971.25
Bonus on fully paid shares 52,000 shares at Tls. 1.50	78,000.00
Bonus on new shares 25,295 shares at Tls. 0.19	4,806.05
Carry forward	61,973.04
Total	319,755.34

At an extraordinary general meeting, held on the 25th April, 1906, and confirmed at an extraordinary general meeting held on the 10th May, 1906, it was decided to issue 26,000 new shares at a premium of Tls. 25 per share; (payable Tls. 4 on 1st October, 1906, and Tls. 35 on 1st April, 1907.) 25,295 of these new shares have been applied for and the balance of 705 shares the directors propose to dispose of in due course.

All the Company's properties have been well let and the loss of rent by houses standing vacant is practically nil. All works necessary to keep the properties in a first class state of repair have been attended to and a considerable amount has been spent on erecting permanent improvements with the view of reducing future repairs. To this is added the increase in the working expenses, insurance, and taxes being also larger, owing to the increasing size and development of the company's properties.

The differences in the figures of the capital account are accounted for by interest on undeveloped land, with the following exceptions:—

Wills Estate No. 1.—Cadastral Lot 1018 has been sold and the profit carried to profit and loss account. New foreign buildings are in course of construction on the North Soochow Road, and will be completed about April next. These buildings have been delayed owing to the Council's alterations in the plans for the Garden Bridge approach.

Jinkee Estate No. 6.—The continuation of the buildings in Jinkee Road. It is estimated that the buildings will be ready for occupation in June as stated in last year's report.

Hongkew Creek Estate No. 8.—The development of this estate is almost finished. The Chinese shops and houses let readily and the estate is showing a very satisfactory return on the capital outlay.

Paoshan Estate No. 13.—New buildings have been erected and Tls. 66,000 has been spent on purchase of land.

Yangtseepoo Estate No. 11.—This estate has been sold and the profit transferred to profit and loss account.

Ferry Road Estate No. 16.—This estate has been divided into convenient building lots all except two of which have been sold at a substantial profit.

Chaoufoong Road Estate No. 19. Consists of four four-storied godowns and two dwelling houses at the corner of Chaoufoong Road and Broadway.

Jessfield Road Estate No. 20.—Consists of 24 mow of land with a good frontage on the Jessfield Road including 12 mow laid out as a garden and ready for building purposes.

Jessfield Road Estate No. 21.—Consists of 45 mow of land well situated on the Jessfield Road.

Yates Road Estate No. 22.—Consists of 12 mow of land on the Great Western Road, East of Yates Road, the development of which is now under consideration.

Directors.—Sir Chas. Judge on leaving for England resigned his seat and Mr. E. C. Pearce has been invited to join the Board. Mr. E. Jenner Hogg retires by rotation, but offers himself for re-election.

Auditor.—Mr. Wingrove retires but offers himself for re-election.

E. JENNER HOGG,
Chairman.

WORKING ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st December, 1906.

Dr.	Tls. Cts.
To charges account	4,516.27
To salaries account	15,975.00
To rental account	1,200.00
To compradore and staff	2,500.00
To legal expense account	1,502.93
To agency management	0,000.00
To trustees' fees	1,250.00
To directors' fees	5,000.00
To auditors' fees	300.00
To balance transferred to profit and loss account	316,617.53

Tals. 384,861.73

Cr.	Tls. Cts.
By gross rentals	Tls. 481,720.86
Less fire insurance, water and repairs, etc.	126,587.84
	355,133.03
By commission account	576.63
By transfer fees	198.75
By interest account	28,953.32
	384,861.73

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Tls. Cts.
June 30th, 1906	
To dividend for 1905	156,000.00
To transfer to reserve fund account	40,880.46
To interim dividend for 1906	156,000.00
Dec. 31st, 1906	
To balance	319,735.31

Tals. 672,435.80

Cr.	Tls. Cts.
By Balance	248,874.99
Dec. 31st, 1906	
By profit on sale of Yangtseepoo estate No. 11	23,755.67
By profit on sale of part of Wills' estate No. 1	35,848.60
By profit on sale of part of Ferry Road estate	17,319.01
By balance of working account	346,617.53
	672,435.80

RESERVE FUND ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Tls. Cts.
Dec. 31st, 1906	
To balance	869,493.51
	869,493.51

Tals. 869,493.51

Jan. 1st, 1906.	Cr.	Tls. Cts.
By balance		828,813.05
By profit and loss account		41,680.46

Tals. 869,493.51

RESERVE FUND SPECIAL ACCOUNT.

Dec. 31st, 1906.	Dr.	Tls. Cts.
To balance		170,000.00

Jan. 1st, 1906.	Cr.	Tls. Cts.
By balance		170,000.00

Tals. 170,000.00

BALANCE SHEET.

Dr.	Tals.	Tls. Cts.
Estate No. 1		604,788.61
do. " 2		1,217,810.07
do. " 4		269,793.28
do. " 5		163,446.95
do. " 6		825,358.62
do. " 8		588,241.32
do. " 9		37,819.93
do. " 10		119,509.35
do. " 12		196,581.40
do. " 13		421,621.51
do. " 14		56,567.33
do. " 15		230,163.37
do. " 16		17,073.45
do. " 17		34,370.66
do. " 18		47,124.57
do. " 19		230,071.90
do. " 20		28,540.30
do. " 21		53,784.54
do. " 22		4,169.23
Cash in hands of agents		1,041.87
Sundry mortgage loans		1,821,801.42
Sundry debtors		56,418.38
Hongkong and Shanghai bank		113,874.90
Debtors purchase account		3,634.88
	Tals. 7,179,092.84	

Cr.	Tals.	Tls. Cts.
Capital account		3,338,440.00
Premium account		120,715.00
Debentures bearing interest at 6 per cent		1,461,000.00
do. do. at 5 1/2 per cent		250,000.00
do. do. at 5 per cent		350,000.00
Profit and loss account		319,735.31
Unclaimed dividends		226.14
Sundry creditors		502.85
Reserve fund account		869,493.51
Reserve fund special account		170,000.00
	Tals. 7,179,092.84	

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The eighty-third report of the court of directors to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders to be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on Saturday, February 16th, at noon, reads:—

To the Proprietors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation—Gentlemen, The directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the bank, and balance sheet for the half-year ending 31st December, 1906.

The net profits for that period, including \$1,712,472.37, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, debiting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to \$4,433,192.68.

The directors recommend the transfer of \$750,000 from the profit and loss account to credit of the silver reserve fund, which fund will then stand at \$11,000,000.

After making this transfer and deducting remuneration to directors there remains for appropriation \$3,669,192.68, out of which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of one pound and fifteen shillings sterling per share, which at 4/6 will absorb \$622,222.22 and a bonus of one pound sterling per share, which at 4/6 will absorb \$355,555.55.

The difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend and bonus are declared, and 2/3, the rate of the day, amounts to \$968,766.01.

The balance \$1,712,472.37 to be carried to new profit and loss account.

NEW CAPITAL.

After careful consideration your directors have decided that it is desirable to further increase the capital of the Bank from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

A circular will be issued to shareholders shortly, and later an extraordinary meeting of shareholders will be called to obtain your sanction to the scheme being carried out, when your directors will recommend the creation of 40,000 new shares of \$125 each, to be issued to shareholders at the price of £30 each payable at

current rate of exchange, in the proportion of one new share to two old shares.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. G. H. M. Dhurast has been elected Chairman for the year 1907 and the Honourable Mr. W. J. Messou, Deputy Chairman.

Mr. H. A. W. Slade having resigned his seat on leaving the Colony, Mr. G. Balloch has been invited to fill the vacancy; the appointment requires confirmation at this meeting.

Mr. A. Haupt, Mr. R. Hewan and Mr. A. J. Raymond retire in rotation, but being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts and Mr. A. G. Wood, who offer themselves for re-election.

A. HAUPT,
Chairman,

ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. 31st December, 1906.

LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Paid-up capital	10,000,000.00	
Sterling reserve fund	10,000,000.00	
Silver reserve fund	10,250,000.00	
Marine insurance account	250,000.00	
Notes in circulation:—		
Authorized issue against securities deposited with the Crown Agents for the colonies	10,000,000.00	
Additional issue authorized by Hongkong Ordinance No. 19 of 1901, against coin lodged with the Hongkong Government	6,675,125.00	
	16,075,125.00	
Current accounts:		
Silver	\$68,932,875.86	
Gold, £1,131,638 11s. 2d =	36,089,496.68	
	105,021,972.52	
Fixed deposits:		
Silver	\$19,329,279.33	
Gold, £5,138,163 5s. 1d =	41,858,630.53	
	94,187,909.86	
Bills payable (including drafts on London Bankers, Call Loan and Short Sight Drawing on London Office against bills receivable and bullion shipments)	13,878,964.22	
Profit and loss account	4,433,192.68	
Liability on bills of exchange re-discounted, £6,162,364 8s. 10d. of which £4,035,759 8s. 9d. have since run off.		
	\$264,097,776.28	

ASSETS.	\$	c.
Cash	39,896,108.78	
Coin lodged with the Hongkong Government against note circulation in excess of \$10,000,000	10,000,000.00	
Bullion in hand and in transit	2,047,016.00	
Indian Government rupee paper	2,038,021.12	
Consols, Colonial and other securities	6,598,016.73	
Sterling reserve fund investments, viz.:—		
£398,000 2 1/2 per cent Consols at 82	£490,360	
(of which £250,000 lodged with the bank of England as a Special London Reserve.)		
£255,000 2 1/2 per cent National War Loan at 9 1/2	229,500	
£325,000 other sterling securities written down to	280,140	
	£1,000,000	10,000,000.00
Bills discounted, loans and credits	93,039,746.89	
Bills receivable	99,034,593.40	
Bank premises	1,444,274.02	
	\$264,097,776.28	

GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Dr.	\$	c.
To amount written off:—		
Remuneration to directors	15,000.00	
To dividend account:—		
£1.15 per share on 80,000 shares = £140,000 at 4/6	622,222.22	
Bonus of £1. per share on 80,000 shares = £80,000 at 4/6	355,555.55	
	977,777.77	
To dividend adjustment account:—		
Difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend and bonus are declared, and 2/3, the rate of the day	968,766.01	
To transfer to silver reserve fund	750,000.00	
To balance forward to next half-year	1,721,554.90	
	\$4,433,192.68	

Cr.	\$	c.
By balance of undivided profits, 30th June, 1906	\$1,712,472.37	
By amount of net profits for the six months ending 31st Dec., 1906, after making provision		

for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due 2,720,630.31

4,433,102.68

STERLING RESERVE FUND.

To balance \$10,000,000.00
By balance 30th June, 1906 \$10,000,000.00
(invested in sterling securities).

SILVER RESERVE FUND.

To balance \$11,000,000.00
By balance 30th June, 1906 \$10,250,000.00
By transfer from profit and loss account 750,000.00

\$11,000,000.00

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

February 2nd.

TOKYO EXPOSITION.

Articles have appeared in the local press to-day stating that the Japanese Consul here requested them to notify the general public that an exhibition will take place at Tokyo in the 33rd year of Kwong Sui and that persons who are desirous of sending exhibits are requested to forward them between the 7th day of the 2nd moon and the 10th day of the 5th moon. Particular attention is drawn to the fact that this exhibition will be on a far more extensive scale than those previously held in Japan. The Consul begs to solicit the patronage of all gentry, students and merchants to patronize the exhibition.

CHANGE OF OFFICIALS.

Viceroy Chou Fu has appointed Cheang Wing and Lau Hing-tong to be Nam Hoi and Pun-Yu magistrates respectively; vice Yu Yu-Kwan and Chong Wan-Yee, transferred to other positions.

FIRE.

A fire broke out last night in the 15th ward (western suburbs). The conflagration spread very rapidly and over 30 houses were burnt down. Mr. Chung, a member of the gentry who has a very fine collection of curios valued at over 500,000 dollars, very narrowly escaped, the fire stopping just next door. The houses were uninsured.

"CLOSING SEALS."

Yesterday all the official seals were closed. No important business can be transacted for a month, while the seals remain closed.

DARING ROBBERY.

At noon yesterday six robbers entered a house adjoining the ex-Governor's yamen occupied by a man surnamed Kwong. The desperadoes terrified the inmates with revolvers and ransacked the place. Owing to the house being next to a yamen the robbers dared not remain too long and were satisfied with taking with them about \$200 worth of valuables.

February 6th.

ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

Marquis Li Kwok Kii, grandson of the late Li Hung Chang, who was some time ago appointed Lieutenant General of the Manchurian Army of Kwangtung, left Shanghai on the 4th instant to take up his new appointment in Canton. His Excellency is expected to arrive in Hongkong on the 8th instant. His Excellency Viceroy Chou Fu has despatched a gunboat and two commodores to receive Marquis Li in Hongkong.

NO EXCITEMENTS ALLOWED.

The Japanese Consul here sent an application to Viceroy Chou Fu on behalf of the proprietor of a Japanese theatrical troupe for leave to give a performance in Canton. His Excellency replied as follows:—"During Viceroy Shum's regime the Italian Consul General and the Japanese Consul General (at Hongkong) had both applied on behalf of their subjects to give performances in the city. Viceroy Shum replied that the Cantonese people are easily excited and of very violent nature. It is feared that trouble may arise. Viceroy Shum has placed it on record not to permit any foreign performances of any description to be carried on in the city. I beg that you will convey the above to the proprietor of the theatrical troupe."

KWANGTUNG MINES.

Owing to the financial difficulties in the Kwangtung Province Viceroy Chou Fu has

given instructions to the Director of the Bureau of Agriculture and Labour to devise means to raise capital and float companies to work all the mines in the Kwangtung Province. Viceroy Chou Fu suggested the working of all the coal mines first.

SWATOW SUGAR REFINERY.

Raw sugar is one of the chief products of Chin Chew. Of late years, owing to the stagnation of trade, the consumption of raw sugar has diminished and consequently the exportation of this commodity has declined considerably. Viceroy Chou Fu discovering this, has delegated a special deputy Cheong Chung-loong and a foreigner who is an expert in this line of trade to establish a sugar refinery in Swatow in order to manufacture sugar and export to foreign countries.

TO WELCOME DUCAL TRAVELLERS.

Preparations are being made here on an elaborate scale for the reception of T. R. H. the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

ANNUAL MEETING OF RATEPAYERS.

Minutes of the annual meeting of the ratepayers of Kulangsu, held at the Board Room, on the 26th January, 1907.

Mr. C. Merz, Consul for Germany and Senior Consul, was in the chair.

1. The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

2. Mr. F. B. Marshall, Chairman of the Municipal Council, in presenting the annual report, accounts and balance sheet for 1906, together with the estimates for 1907, remarked:

Gentlemen,—The printed report that has been circulated amongst you for some days, gives you a fair outline of the work done during the past twelve months, but I venture to think a few supplementary remarks from me may not be taken amiss.

First of all, gentlemen, I will refer to your last annual meeting, when you carried by a small majority "That the incoming Council gradually reduce the number of Sikhs, and approach the Chinese authorities through the proper channel, to provide an efficient detective force to be paid for by the Council."

Well, your Council carefully considered this suggestion, you will not. I mention suggestion, as we did not think you had proposed and passed it with any other idea than that we should treat it as a suggestion, and not binding on us to comply with it forthwith. After consultation with the Superintendent of Police we came to the conclusion that it was not advisable to do away with the Sikh Police Force. It may be, gentlemen, that some of you hear reports about their misbehaviour, but I am inclined to think that if our force consisted of natives, you might not hear so many complaints though there would be much more reason for them. The Chinese do not like the Sikhs and, for this reason, they may be more valuable to us. The force we now have totals eighteen in all, and some of them have been with us for years which speaks well for them, and this in itself is a justification for our continuing them on in the Police Force of the Island.

On the resignation of Lieut. Col. Mackenzie we were fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. Mitchell as Secretary and Superintendent of Police, whose long and honourable career in the British Army so strongly appealed to us when making our selection from applicants for the post, and your retiring Council have nothing but the very best to report about his services during the six months he has been with us.

Turning to Finance, I may point out to you a slight discrepancy in accounts which some of you may have noticed. The amount carried forward should have been \$1243.03 and not \$743.03, the \$500 is an amount we handed back in connection with lottery fees previously collected. You will see, gentlemen, our last year's expenditure was practically on a par with our income, and considerably in excess of estimate given in our last report. This, in a measure, was due to \$984.10 deferred pay for Police Force, which had been over-

looked in estimate, \$700 more spent on uniforms than was estimated for, and an extra \$300 on prison charges more than allowance was made for. For the current year, after allowing for interest on debentures and sums that we consider will cover road upkeep and other outgoings, we anticipate a balance of some \$4,000 income in excess of expenditure, which, if correct, I think must be considered satisfactory.

In conformity with permission granted at the special meeting of ratepayers held on the 25th April last, authorizing the Council to issue debentures up to \$20,000 bearing interest at the rate of 7 per cent per annum, we offered same and up to date \$7,200 have been applied for and allotted, and we have a guarantee that the balance will be taken up when the Council require the money. We have bought a very suitable plot of land, costing \$3,700, and buildings for Municipal goal, barracks and quarters, &c. will be proceeded with after plans have met with the approval of the ratepayers you to-day elect to form your Council for the current year.

I think it will be gratifying, gentlemen, to you all to learn from the Health Officer's report, that the general health of the Island during the past twelve months has been satisfactory. This is due chiefly to the sanitary regulations now in force and which our Inspector is instructed to see carried out as thoroughly as possible, and I would especially call your attention to the Health Officer's remarks re disposal of kitchen refuse, &c., and ask your assistance by seeing same done in your own houses, as well as others you control, such as schools, &c., and so make the inspection duties of our officers less arduous. Also I may mention owners of property in the village would considerably help if they would see the alley-ways, &c., kept in a sanitary condition and comply with the recommendations of our inspectors for minor alterations, &c. There are certain suggestions our inspectors would like to make but they do not feel justified in insisting on their being enforced, and so look to property owners to assist and further improve the general health of the Island.

In conclusion I would like to remark that it gives me great satisfaction to see that more ratepayers have come forward this year and offered their services as Councillors than the number required which ensures a ballot, and in my opinion, a ballot is always desirable. In small communities such as ours, we must all be willing to take our share of public work when called on, and, though the duties of a Councillor are not very arduous, they take up a certain part of one's time. Still we want good representative men at the head of our affairs, and I trust, gentlemen, you will give your votes to those most interested in the well being of our small Island, whether they be large property holders or otherwise.

3. The Chairman moved, and Mr. Hanisch seconded, that the accounts for 1906 be passed.

Carried unanimously.

4. The Chairman proposed and Mr. Hanisch seconded that the balance sheet be passed.

Carried unanimously.

5. The Chairman proposed and Mr. Wilson seconded that the estimates of 1907 be passed.

Carried by a large majority.

6. The following gentlemen offered themselves as Councillors for 1907:—Messrs. C. W. Burton, C. A. V. Bowra, A. F. Gardiner, W. H. Howard, W. Bruns, D. MacHaffie, F. B. Marshall, S. Okuyama, Dr. J. A. Otto, L. I. Thomas, W. H. Wallace; and, on a ballot, the following were elected:—Messrs. C. A. V. Bowra, A. F. Gardiner, W. Kruss, F. B. Marshall, S. Okuyama and W. H. Wallace.

7. With a vote of thanks to the Chairman the meeting closed.

(Signed) DR. MERZ,

Consul for Germany and Senior Consul.

Under the new regulations Chinese women are not allowed to take out licences for opium divans, and it was this difficulty which led Wong Shi to engage an accountant to take out a licence for her divan in Victoria Street. He is alleged, however, not to have been an honest man, for it is stated that he disappeared a few days later with about \$40 of his employer's money. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 26th January, 1907.—Silk market has experienced a marked decline on our last quotations. Reelers in general however appeared in no hurry to sell, and gave way slowly. A few purchases have been made in 13/15 at comparatively cheap prices. At the close the market is dull with a downward tendency. In S. R. 14/16 for America business has been confined to about 50 bales at low rates. Waste Market.—Certain holders seemed more inclined to consider reductions, and cleared off a fair quantity of "Extra Selected," "Extra Extra" and "Market Extra." Supplies in the hands of Cantonese dealers are very light, and sales made show considerable divergence according to the cost price of the holdings. Stock of silk in Canton 1,200 bales.

OPIUM

HONGKONG, February 7th

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$800	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$860	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$900	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$940	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$675	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$887½	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	—	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$825	to	—	do.
Benares Old	—	to	—	do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 7th February, state that 21 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 76,100 tons of coal. Since January 27th, 11 steamers have arrived with a total of 31,900 tons of coal.

Cardiff	\$14.00 to 15.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$10.00 to \$11.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00	nominal.
Miki Lump	\$10.00	nominal.
Moji Lump	\$6.00 to \$8.00	ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$6.00 to \$7.00	ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$7.75 to \$8.50	steady.
Bengal	\$9.00 to \$9.50	nominal.

RAW COTTON.

HONGKONG, 8th February.—Fair business put through. Stock about 600 bales.

Bombay	\$17.50 to \$20.50	per picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca	20.00 to 22.50	"
Shanghai and Japanese	24.50 to 26.00	"
Tungchow and Ningpo	24.50 to 26.00	"

Reported sales, 275 bags.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee in his Report dated Hongkong, 8th February, states:—Settlements during the past two weeks have been on small lines, but considering the season and the dislocated condition of the market they cannot be called unsatisfactory. Prices have ruled irregular, favourite spinings barely remaining steady, and on the whole the market may be termed 50 cents to a dollar easier. Receipts continue to fall away, and it would appear that the stream of shipments is now being directed to Shanghai. Our estimate of stocks still shows a heavy figure, and under existing circumstances is far beyond requirements. At the close buyers are entirely holding off and the business of this native year may be considered to have almost come to an end pending the revival for clearance after the holidays.

Meanwhile the cry is "still they come." Out of the three or four old established yarn-dealing Hongs which had escaped the general disaster in December last one has had to go into bankruptcy during the interval. Its liabilities are estimated at about a lac and a half with nearly 7,000 bales of uncleared yarn on hand.

Sales of the interval aggregate 3,983 bales, arrivals amounts to 2,966, unsold stock estimated at 110,000, and uncleared yarn in second hands 30,000 bales.

Local Manufacture:—Continues quiet.

Japanese:—A sale of 70 bales No. 20s at \$134 is the only business of the fortnight in these threads.

Raw Cotton:—There is nothing doing in China Cotton. Indian descriptions continue to move slowly and sales of 250 bales New Bengal at \$20 to \$21, and 244 bales old at \$17½ to 19 are reported. Quotations are \$17 to \$20 Indian, and China \$21 to \$24.

Exchange on India, after touching Rs. 164 for T. T. and Rs. 164½ for Post, closes steady to-day at Rs. 165 and Rs. 165½ respectively. On Shanghai 78 and on Japan 109.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 2nd instant, viz:—

Indian:—In fair demand at steady to firm prices, sales amounting to about 6,000 bales with an estimated stock of unsold and uncleared yarn of 170,000 bales.

Japanese:—In steady demand at slightly easier prices in No. 16s, sales amounting to 2,200 bales on the basis of Tls. 86 to 94½ for No. 16s, and Tls. 101 to 102½ for No. 20s.

Local: Market firm, but no sales from first hands.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 31st January, 1907, states:—During the interval it was reported that Russia had notified the Chinese Government that she intended to evacuate Manchuria at once, and not wait until the 15th April as stipulated in the Portsmouth Treaty. Such a gratuitous display of virtue naturally causes some surprise, if not suspicion; and it is not difficult to find a reason for it. The recent demands with reference to the opening up of Mongolia and threats in event of non-compliance. So far as can be gathered the situation in Manchuria as regards future trade is being satisfactorily straightened out, and there seems to be every promise that so soon as Newchwang is re-opened something more like the old order of things will be prevailing. As we approach nearer to China New Year the market is becoming quieter, and, although quite a considerable amount of business is reported this week, it is probable that the bulk of it was arranged prior to the present interval, as a good many of the principal merchants and dealers have already left for their homes. The settling has apparently been already arranged, and so far as we can make out only one of the Native Piece Goods Hongs is in any serious difficulties, and that over Fancy Dyed goods. Clearances cannot be called satisfactory, but money is coming with some freedom in payment of goods that are over due and to meet forward exchange contracts, the money market being still very easy. Telegrams from Manchester report a good demand from the trade generally, and prices continue very firm. The Liverpool quotations for Spot Cotton are 7.90d. for Mid-American, and 10½d. for Egyptian, the former for all next month being 5.55d. The last fortnightly export figures were 14,000,000 yards of Plain Cottons, which will make the total for the month in the neighbourhood of 30,000,000 yards, a satisfactory decrease on the 33,000,000 yards of January last year. There is no special news from New York, but the report that 2,000 bales Clifton K 3.25 yard Drills had been settled for China at about 19s. 4½d. will give some idea of the market. The purchase is supposed to be for Tientsin direct. A fair demand continues for imported Yarns at steady prices; Native Cotton is rather firmer. At the leading Auctions this week the prompt date has been extended until after the New Year holidays, when prices are naturally firmer as a rule though it would have been more gratifying had there been no exceptions. In the private market there is scarcely anything reported from first hands, nearly all the transactions published being actually resales. Fancy Goods.—There is not much going on at the moment. A few special Prints have found buyers from stock and also for arrival, but for the most part the market is quiet and buyers are waiting for more reasonable prices to prevail. Turkey Reds still show considerable weakness at Auction and holders find it difficult to obtain adequate prices privately. The Fast Black Cotton Italians in the majority of cases realised fully firm prices. Woollens.—In spite of the deferred delivery the Auction sales have shown but little improvement, Scarlet and Dark Blue Camlets are up about two mace, other colours being irregular. Long Ells are fairly firm as compared with last week's prices, while Lastings and Spanish Stripes show some weakness.

Cotton Yarn.—Indian.—Again a fairly good business is reported for the River markets, Szechuen, Tientsin and Tsingtau taking a few of the No. 10s. Prices have kept fairly steady to firm for all counts, especially No. 20s, while the sales amount to 4,045 bales.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 8th February.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

CORROZ YARN.—A fairly large business has been done in No. 16s at almost previous rates. Prices for the other counts continued to decline although there was a better demand for them, and a fall of \$1 to \$2½ has been established. Quotations are:—No. 10s at \$72 to \$95; No. 16s. at

\$97 to \$25; and No. 20s. at \$98 to \$140. Arrivals 18,500 bales. Sales 9,000 bales; Shipments 17,500 bales; Bargains 60,000 bales. Unsold stock 71,000 bales.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$80.00 to \$125.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	\$135.00 to 140.00
" 22 to 24	140.00 to 145.00
" 28 to 32	150.00 to 155.00
" 38 to 42	160.00 to 165.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—Market flat. Nothing doing.

Grey Shirtings—7 lbs.	\$2.40 to \$2.50
8.4 lbs.	3.00 to 3.70
9 to 10 lbs.	4.00 to 4.80
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.70 to 2.90
58 to 60 "	3.00 to 3.20
64 to 66 "	3.25 to 5.30
Fine	5.50 to 7.00
Book-folds	5.00 to 7.75
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.60 to 1.50
T-Cloths—6lbs. 32 in. (Ord'y)	2.00 to 2.20
7lbs. 32 "	2.25 to 2.75
6lbs. 32 " (Mexs.)	2.20 to 2.35
7lbs. 32 "	2.40 to 3.05
8 to 8.4 oz., 36 in.	3.00 to 3.70
Drills, English—40 yds. 13½	4.50 to 7.25
to 14 lbs.	

FANCY COTTON—Small sales. Market quiet.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	\$1.50 to \$3.65
per yard	
Brocades—Dyed	\$0.12 to \$0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	0.07 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.20 to 0.40
Velvetous—18 in.	0.18 to 0.21

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk \$0.45 to \$0.95

WOOLLENS—Market sick. Small sales.

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	\$0.65 to 2.00
German	1.20 to 2.50
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths	3.50 to 6.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	\$6.50 to \$8.75
Assorted	6.65 to 8.90
Camlets—Assorted	11.00 to 31.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches	13.00 to 18.50
Assorted	

Blankets—7 to 11 lbs. \$0.60 to \$0.78

METALS—	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	\$4.35
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.)	4.35
Swedish Bar	4.40
Small Round Rod	5.00
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	5.60
Wire, 16 25 oz.	9.80
Wire Rope, Old	3.00
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	11.10
Australian	11.10
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 28 oz.	44.50
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	44.50
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	44.50
Tin	99.00
Tin-Plates	per box
STEEL, ¼ to ½	\$7.10
Quicksilver	6.70
Window Plates	per picul
	\$111.00
	per box.
	\$3.75

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 30th Jan., 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 37.00
Do. Seconds	33.00
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	22.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	64.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	7.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and or	
Poochi	10.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and or Chayu	9.80
Green China Grass, Szechuen	11.00
Jute	5.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	10.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow	
and/or Macheng	9.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	9.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	14.00
Animal Tallow	10.00
Gallnut, usual shape	15.00
Gallnuts, Plum do.	17.00
Tobacco Tingchow	6.50
Tobacco Wongkong	9.00
Turmeric	5.50
Sesamum Seed	5.80
Sesamum Seed Oil	11.00
Tea Oil	8.60

Per I. G. M. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, sailed on 31st January. For Genoa:—49 bales raw silk, 10 cases essential oil, 1 case hemp. For Naples:—8 cases hats, 5 cases essential oil. For Gibraltar:—8 cases cigars. For Antwerp:—112 bales leaf tobacco, 20 bales split bamboo, 13 cases chinaware, 7 cases blackwoodware, 3 cases cigars. For Antwerp, Hamburg or London: 138 bales canes. For Bremen:—162 bales feathers, 100 rolls matting. For Hamburg:—100 cases cassia, 500 cases cassia buds, 373 bales feathers, 308 half-chests tea, 150 bales broken cassia, 75 rolls matting, 39 cases chinaware, 20 cases essential oil, 12 cases blackwoodware, 10 cases bristles, 10 cases human hair, 5 cases cigars, 3 cases feathers, 2 cases hemp. For Copenhagen:—10 bales feathers. For London:—2 cases cigars.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 8th February, 1907.—Our market has continued more or less dull throughout the past week, and there is again but little business of importance to report. Exchange on London is quoted at 2 2½ T. T. and on Shanghai at Tls. 73.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled dull with sellers, and the sale of a small parcel is reported at \$925. London is unchanged at £108. Nationals are still required for at \$51 with no shares available at the moment.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have still further improved their position, and can now be placed at \$81½. China Traders, North Chinas, and Yangtzes are unchanged and without business. Cantons have again been booked at \$295, at which rate more shares are available.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas have improved to \$100 with sales and probable further buyers. Subject to audit this company will, we are informed, pay a dividend of \$6 per share and \$2 per share bonus, place \$90,000 to reserve, and \$5,000 to investment fluctuation reserve. Hongkongs have weakened slightly, and are now obtainable at \$370.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao, after sales at \$30, have advanced to \$31 with buyers. Indos have sold at \$87 and \$86, and close without feature at the former rate. Shanghai quotes Tls. 61 sellers. China and Manila and Douglases continue on offer at last quotations, and somewhat lower rates would probably be accepted. Star Ferries (old) have been booked at \$29, \$29½ and \$30 and continue in request at the latter rate. The new shares are quiet at \$20. Shell Transports have been placed at 31s. 6d., and 32s. and are now in demand at 32½.

REFINERIES.—Chinas have weakened to \$29 sellers, and Luzons could probably be obtained at \$29. We have heard of no business in this section during the interval.

MINING.—Nothing doing. Raubs continue on offer at \$8½.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, after sales at \$144 and \$143 have dropped to \$140, at which rate a few shares are still available. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are procurable at \$95, but without business. New Amoy Docks are quiet at \$12, and Shanghai Docks at Tls. 106 locally, whilst Shanghai quotes Tls. 107 buyers for the latter. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have improved in the north to Tls. 233 and Tls. 225 for the old ex new and new shares respectively.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue quiet at \$17½. Kowloon Lands are in request at \$37½, the dividend of \$2½ per share for 1906, paid on the 5th instant, and West Points at \$5½. Hongkong Hotels have further improved to \$122 buyers, but shares appear to be still unobtainable. Humphrey's Estates have sold and have further sellers at \$12. Shanghai Lands have improved in the north to Tls. 106 for the old, and Tls. 64 for the new issue.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs have been booked at the reduced rate of \$11½. In the north Exos have improved to Tls. 76, and Leun Kung Mows to Tls. 135. Internationals and Coy Chees are unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Presidents have sold and are still obtainable at \$8.70. Dairy Farms have been booked at \$16½, and China Light and Powers at \$92. Green Island Cements have sold at \$21, \$21½ and \$21½, and more shares are wanted. Lees continue in request at \$250.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS.
Albambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$95, sales & sel London, £108
National B of China		
A. Shares	26	\$51
Bank's Asbestos Co. A	12s	6d. \$7, sellers
China-Borneo Co.		\$12 \$10, sellers
China Light & Power Co.		\$10 \$9½, sales
China President		\$10 \$8.70, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 76
Hongkong		\$10 \$11½, sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 61
Leun Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 135
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 375
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16½, sales
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & Co.	\$50	\$95, seller
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$140, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$12
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 10	Tls. 106
Shanghai H. Wharf	100	Tls. 235, ex n issue Tls. 225, n issue
Penwick & Co., Geo.	\$20	\$21, sellers
Green Island Cement Co.	\$10	\$21½, buyers
Hongkong & Co. Gas	\$10	\$17½, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$215
Hongkong Ho. & C.	\$50	\$12, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$250, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$21, sellers
H. K. S. Waterfront	\$10	\$6½, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$295, sales & sel.
China Fire	\$20	\$100
China Traders	\$25	\$90
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$370, sellers
North Chinas	25	Tls. 80, sellers
Union	\$100	\$810, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$157½
Land and Buildings—		
H. K. Land Invest.	\$100	\$17½
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$12, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37½, buyers & sel.
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 106
West Point Building	Tls. 25	Tls. 64, n. issue \$50
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Tls. 250	\$150, nominal
Raubs	18 10	\$8½, sellers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$129, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$21, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$46, sellers
H. K. and M.	\$15	\$30½, buyers
Indo-China S. Co.	\$10	\$7
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$26, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30, buyers
Do. New	25	\$20
South China M. Post	\$25	\$24
Steam Laundry	20	\$51
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$30, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$74, buyers
Watkins	\$10	\$25
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12, sales & sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending January 31st, 1907, states:—The market for the Cotton Mills has been active during the past week, with a tendency towards higher prices, but there is no special feature to be recorded in any of the other Stocks. Banks—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. A few shares changed hands during the week at \$940, the London quotation is £109. The T. T. on London

to-day is 3 3¼. Marine and Fire Insurance.—Yangtzes have been dealt in and are wanted at \$160. Unions are wanted at \$780. Shipping—Indo-China S. N. Co. This stock has been practically neglected during the week, but there is an enquiry for shares at lower rates. Tug & Lighter Co. Shares are offering at Tls. 60. Docks and Wharves—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Ltd. Business has been reported at Tls. 108 and Tls. 107 January, and Tls. 111 March. Yangtze Wharf and Godown Co. Business is reported at Tls. 245 and 247½ March. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. The Market is very quiet and rather easier, the prices being at Tls. 233 for the old shares and Tls. 223 for the new shares. Sugar.—No business reported. Lands.—There has been a slight improvement in this stock; new shares have changed hands at Tls. 63 and Tls. 64, and old shares are wanted at Tls. 105. Mining.—Kaipings are wanted at Tls. 11. Industrial.—Business is reported in Fwos at Tls. 70, Tls. 73, Tls. 73½ cash, and Tls. 75, and Tls. 75½ for March. Leun Kung Mows at Tls. 135 cash, Tls. 140 March. International Cottons at Tls. 165 March. Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd. New shares have changed hands at Tls. 106½, and the Old shares at Tls. 109. Maatschappij, & Co. in Langkat. This market has ruled steady during the week at Tls. 249, 250 cash, and Tls. 255 March. Sumatras. The market is somewhat easier for this stock, a fair number of shares being on offer at Tls. 105 without finding buyers. Stores and Hotels.—Business has been done in Weeks & Co.'s shares at \$200, Dunning's at \$52, Astor House Hotels at \$29, and Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 15½. Miscellaneous.—Telephone Co. Shares changed hands at Tls. 58, Lumbers at Tls. 97½, and a heavy fall took place in the price of Horse Bazaars to Tls. 32; afterwards the rate improved to buyers at Tls. 34. Loans & Debentures.—Municipal Debentures 5 per cent. changed hands at Tls. 88.

EXCHANGE

FRIDAY, Feb. 8th.

ON LONDON—Telegraphic Transfer	2 2½
Bank Bills on demand	2 2½
Bank Bills at 30 days' sight	2 2½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2 3½
Credits at 4 months' sight	2 3½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2 3½
ON PARIS—	
Bank Bills on demand	241
Credits 4 months' sight	285½
ON GERMANY—	
On demand	22½
ON NEW YORK—	
Bank Bills on demand	54½
Credits, 60 days' sight	55½
ON BOMBAY—	
Telegraphic Transfer	165
Bank on demand	165½
ON CALCUTTA—	
Telegraphic Transfer	165
Bank on demand	165½
ON SHANGHAI—	
Bank at sight	73
Private 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA—	
On demand	109
ON MANILA—	
On demand	109
ON SINGAPORE—	
On demand	5½ p.p.m.
ON BATAVIA—	
On demand	133½
ON HONGKONG—	
On demand	14 p.p.m.
ON SINGAPORE—	
On demand	1 p.p.m.
ON BOMBAY—	
On demand	64½
SAVE RIGGS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$8.95
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$17.20
BAR SILVER, per oz.	31½

FREIGHT

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report of January 31st, 1907, states:—There is no news of any importance to report in our homeward freight market since last writing, and there will be nothing much doing until after the China New Year which takes place on the 13th of next month. Coastwise.—We have got to the very worst part of the whole year for the coasting trade and the market is absolutely at a standstill. There is not a single enquiry for tonnage to be got anywhere and owners will simply have to wait until the market revives after the New Year. There will be no issue of this circular next French Mail owing to the Chinese New Year holidays.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

February—

ARRIVALS.

- 3, Knivsberg, German str., from Macao
- 3, Taiwan, British str., from Saigon.
- 4, Amigo, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 4, Anstralien, French str. from Marseilles.
- 4, Fri, Norwegian str. from Sourabaya.
- 4, Heim, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 4, Hellas, German str., from Sabang.
- 4, Kiyo Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
- 4, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 4, Monmouth, British cruiser, from Mrs Bay.
- 4, Newton Hall, British str., from Penarth.
- 4, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 4, Wakasa Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 5, C. Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
- 5, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
- 5, Haiman, British str., from Swatow.
- 5, Kanji Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
- 5, King Alfred, British cr., from Singapore.
- 5, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Schuykill, British str., from New York.
- 5, Takachibo, Jap. flagship, from practice.
- 6, Astræa, British cruiser, from Hoihow.
- 6, Chibbi, British str., from Saigon.
- 6, Choyssang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Delhi, British str., from Bombay.
- 6, Helene, German str., from Swatow.
- 6, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 6, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Silesia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Soshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Tamsui, British str., from Amoy.
- 6, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 7, Clio, British sloop, from Mrs Bay.
- 7, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 7, Delta, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
- 7, Heimdal, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 7, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from Kuchotsu.
- 7, Hinsang, British str., from Kuchotsu.
- 7, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 7, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.

February— DEPARTURES.

- 4, Anstralien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Clio, British sloop, for Mrs Bay.
- 4, Eastern, British str., for Moji.
- 4, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
- 4, Kwan tah, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 4, Schuykill, British str., for Canton.
- 4, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Sungkiang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Takachibo, Japanese flagship, for Japan.
- 4, Undo, Norwegian str., for Rangoon.
- 4, Yingchow, British str., for Saigon.
- 5, Kaga Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
- 5, Lowther Castle, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Michael Jebben, German str., for Hoihow.
- 5, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., for San Francisco.
- 5, Oceanien, French str., for Europe.
- 5, Pollux, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 5, Quinte, German str., for Swatow.
- 5, Shawmut, Amr. str., for Tacoma.
- 5, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 5, Tholma, Norwegian str., for Rangoon.
- 6, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
- 6, Chowfa, German str., for Swatow.
- 6, Fukushima Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 6, Haiman, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 6, Hanzang, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Knivsberg, German str., for Macao.
- 6, Monmouthshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Wakasa Maru, Japanese str., for London.
- 7, Choyssang, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Delhi, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Rufar, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 7, Heim, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Hellas, German str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Kalfour, British str., for Cebu.
- 7, Look Sun, German str., for Bangkok.
- 7, pland, Norwegian str., for Calcutta.
- 7, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Shawmut*, from Manila for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Forchee, Rev. G. W. Wright, Messrs F. Jansen, F. Nicolai and J. E. Corley; for Yokohama, Mr. G. A. Conlon; for Tacoma, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Penny, Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Jones, Capt. A. E. Gove, Messrs C.

S. Black, A. M. Glover, H. P. Strickler, A. H. Braack and R. L. Finnick.

Per *Nippon Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Graham, Mrs. J. Davis and child, Messrs. P. R. Harting, Manuel Alonz, Gabriel Martin, Miguel Narro, Y. Compa, Felix Garces, J. Varticorena, Frank Hardix, J. C. Hitchcock, H. M. Nanavaki and J. Bundali.

Per *Borneo*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Messrs. A. Catharmich, C. Caiola, F. Gorham, G. Collins, J. Barrett, E. H. Vestey, Vestey, and Dr. Keith; for Marseilles, Rev. Walker Jennings and Master A. Thompson; for London, Mrs. J. W. S. Neeson, Mrs. Bingham, Messrs. John Ross and W. McGregor.

Per *Eastern*, from Sydney, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Roff, Miss K. Lindsay, Miss F. Collis, Miss M. Hattley, Messrs. J. Braen, Antheo Favares de Carvalho, D. Maria I. da C. Carvalho, D. Anna Martins Soares, J. Hyndman, T. Manuel Pereira Jeronymo, Alfredo Maria da Costa Andrade, Salvador Franco Piedade Pinheiro, Miss G. D. Dayton, Mrs. R. L. Mc Dermid and child, Mr. E. H. Gates; for Shan hai, Major G. W. S. Patterson, Miss O. Stokes, Messrs. J. Blochyudin, J. Buckley, W. Jones, J. Wilson, E. L. Dawson; for Yokohama, Messrs. C. Cavanagh, Cohen, and W. Tindley.

Per *Oceanien*, for Hongkong from Kobe, Messrs. Percy B. Devison and Terpenen; from Shanghai, Mrs. and Miss Nolascio and child, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Dambray, Misses Cecilia, Anna and Maria Silva, Miss Carmen Luback, Revs. Genvais, Robert and Crayet, Messrs. Santos, P. H. J. Janklear, Chariber, D. Turnbull, Okl, Jansenreis and Joku.

Per *Australien*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Consul and Mrs. Bourgeois and 2 children, Rev. Maun, Sister E. Ronche, Messrs. Watson Smyth, A. Carter and Juan Valero; from Saigon, Miss J. Gagerel, Messrs. Hine and J. Heckler; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. Million, Lepissier and Goubault, Sisters Peters, Cauly, Paulin, Karion, Richard, de Kenrey, Moreau and Wagner, Revs. M. rellio and Shiatarella, Messrs. J. Martin, Doyer, Golard, Barrand, Monard and Kissako; from Singapore, Rev. Fathers Stanislas and Raphael, Mrs. Dora, and Mr. Rubleier; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Cousin, Messrs. W. D. Graham and A. Luggi; for Japan from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Chaix, Mrs. Doutrigne, Messrs. Adol. Crozier, Elias, Herman Jung, Mira Mizrahi and Budichowsky; from Singapore, Mrs. Anatolie and Mrs. Marguerite Maria.

Per *Wakasa Maru*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Miss O. Jones, Messrs. S. Cross, J. Cosingh, Y. A. Gubbay, W. H. Bramwell, J. A. de Figueiredo, F. Little, Swensan and F. Ribeiro; for Singapore, Mr. F. Dickson; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Fabre, Mr. and Mrs. Fontana; for London, Mrs. C. Neil and 2 children, Mrs. Gregson, Mrs. Couran and 2 children, Messrs. R. J. M. Lanchlan, A. Hoppe, W. Cowel, J. Howkins and Blair.

Per *Delhi*, for Hongkong from London, Miss A. L. Laybourn, Miss F. A. Forge, Messrs. Vincent Kemp, J. Noble, and Michael Dunne, Miss Currie, Miss Barclay, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Chanter, Mr. and Mrs. J. Allen, Miss Allen; from Marseilles, H. R. H. Duke of Connaught, H. R. H. Duchess of Connaught, H. R. H. Princess Patricia, Miss Pelly, General Sir J. Maxwell, Capt. Hon. Ponsonby, Messrs. A. P. James, F. C. Cross, Mr. and Mrs. Noble, Miss A. Draper; from Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. R. Allison; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. U. G. Holston, Miss Bolston, Major White, Sirdar Mohd. A. Khan, Sirdar Fatch Mohd. Khan, Kazi No vineddin Khan; for Manila from Marseilles, Mr. J. H. Ford; for Shanghai from London, Messrs. F. D. Barnes, G. R. Ainslie, D. Murray, W. G. Cowan, D. L. Davis, E. Gostling, W. M. Murdock, Mr. and Mrs. C. Champion and infant, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Moss, Miss G. C. Lewin, Mr. and Mrs. Johns and 5 children, Messrs. H. Whitelock, A. H. Mallet, W. J. Dean, Mr. and Mrs. Morrison, Messrs. E. J. Pottinger, J. P. Williamson, and W. W. Burn; from Marseilles, Messrs. J. Tippen and M. Koonen; from Bombay, Mr. J. M. Tadiwalla; from Singapore, Messrs. W. N. Haigh and H. M. King; for Yokohama from London, Mrs. Dockwood Jones and infant, Mr. P. A. Stovold; from Marseilles, Mrs. J. M. Smart, Rev. J. H. Ritson, Messrs. Thune, T. H. Knott, G. H. Brown, and E. H.

Murphy; from Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Campbell and child.

Per *Cupri*, from Bombay, &c., Mr. and Mrs. H. Smallman, Mr. and Mrs. S. N. M. Cunn, and Dr. H. Jerman.

Per *D'lia*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. E. L. Bradford, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Moulle and child, Mrs. Math. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Gray, Miss Stott, Miss Dare, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Engr. Ohlsson, Capt. Eyre Dabille, Maj. F. W. Fernie, Lieut. Boyle, Messrs. G. Dillas, E. Mallar, F. Vida, W. R. Kahler, S. H. Bode, H. Rigge, W. H. C. Weippert, M. Beauvais, R. E. Kadoorie, O. E. Lockyer, Korthals Altes, H. C. Kulman, W. C. Barbean, G. Ephgrave, W. Thompson, A. Fawcett, A. H. Dare, R. C. Graff, M. S. Joseph and G. Van Thielde Vries.

Per *Doric*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Corse, Mrs. F. E. Barton, Rev. and Mrs. C. Franzen, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Gostohin, Mrs. A. Forrest, Miss L. G. O'Toole, Dr. Z. N. Laughlin, Messrs. W. N. Echols, W. B. Webb, A. Strauss, R. E. Norfleet, M. Peterson, A. L. Shields, P. A. Meyer, T. A. Riordan, Cyp Vabre, A. W. Walter, Fred. Johnstone and C. O'Shea.

DEPARTED.

Per *Manila*, for Sydney, Capt. Manoe and Mr. J. S. Rees; for New Guinea ports, Messrs. T. Stahl, Max Schotter, C. F. Merten, E. P. Kill, Stoltz, Thiel, Gehl, O. Wiegmann, and Miss Neuhaus.

Per *Preussen*, for Shanghai, Messrs. W. E. Vornsald, J. Bernhard, Croft, Wilkinson, H. R. Boyd, Lyons, A. A. da Roza, Maher, Miss C. Voelkel, Miss Schuppelmann, Mrs. Wilbur, Mrs. Andersen, Master Grimbale, Messrs. E. and R. Lammert, Miss Thomson, Miss Michima, and Miss Spetor; for Kobe, Col. Scott; for Yokohama, Dr. and Mrs. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Lenwood, Dr. and Mrs. Platt.

Per *Nikko Maru*, for Japan, Mr. R. G. Singleton, Miss Singleton, Messrs. Stomann, Chambers and D. Savary.

Per *Yacati Maru*, for Manila, &c., Mrs. H. E. Heacock, Mons. and Madame Ramon Ramirez, Madame Ramirez Fouquise, Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Ping and 3 children, Dr. J. P. Monteith, Mons. Carlos Fouquise, Messrs. J. Ramirez Orteiza, Ramirez de la Cavada, D. J. O'Connell, A. H. Ahrens, P. H. Foxwell, E. P. Foxwell, A. B. Lawrence, John Rolle, J. L. Goulter, E. Wooten, J. J. Harrigan, C. L. Burroughs and E. A. Hopkins.

Per *Empire*, for Australia, &c., Mrs. Mathews, Mrs. M. Mendes and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. J. da C. Moushino, Mrs. Sampson and child, Capt. J. Andrade, Rev. S. N. Nazareth, Major C. S. Paton, Rev. S. M. A. da Silva, Miss Helma, Sister S. Pimentel, Sister I. Siqueira, Miss J. C. Wilson, Messrs. A. Ayres, Brunning, M. Carrasco, A. Claudino, J. Cordeiro, J. Duarte, Gonsalves, B. Matheus, F. Miguel, A. P. de Oliveira, A. Paschoal, A. Pereira, M. da Silva, Watt and J. Wilson.

Per *Nippon Maru*, for San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Newson, Mrs. W. L. Boreham, Rev. and Mrs. Parkhurst, Mrs. McDermid and infant, Mr. and Mrs. W. Roff, Mrs. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Graham, Lieut. Comdr. H. George, U.S.N., Lieut. J. K. Seymour, U.S.N., Miss Ellen Emerson, Miss Vleet, Messrs. F. Garces, J. Bleechynden, W. Tindley, L. Warner, F. H. Thompson, J. Mardicorena, R. Hanbrick, H. W. Andrews, B. L. Moss, and Dr. Keen Law.

Per *Kaga Maru*, for Seattle, &c., Mrs. J. W. White and children, Mr. and Mrs. Hemperley, Mrs. E. T. Banja, Master F. Banja, Mrs. J. S. Day, Messrs. H. Banja, A. H. Crook, R. E. O. Bird, A. R. Sutherland, R. Stemming, R. J. Birbeck, and J. Passos.

Per *Wakasa Maru*, for London, &c., Mrs. C. H. Grace and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Fabre, Mrs. J. Neil and 2 children, Mrs. Gregson, Mr. and Mrs. Fontana, Mr. and Mrs. Fena, Mrs. Cowan and 2 children, Mrs. Schmidt and infant, Messrs. Cummings, F. Muir, A. Kapper, W. Cowel, J. Howkins, A. Savage, T. W. Hill, A. Waterhouse, A. Hedderick, R. J. M. Lanchilo, and F. Dickson.

Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HARRIS, for the Concerned, at 10A, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office 131, Fleet Street, E.C.